THE ROMAN MISSAL

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LECTIONARY

Weekday

A

Proper of Seasons – Ordinary Time (Weeks 1-9)
Proper of Saints (November-June)
Commons

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
Ottawa – Canada
1993

LECTIONARY
Weekday
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for use in Canada

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE I

TABLE OF MOVEABLE DATES

Year	Cycle of Readings	Ash Wednesday	Easter	Ascension Sunday	Pentecost	First Sunday of Advent
1992	C II	Mar 4	Apr 19	May 31	June 7	Nov 29
1993	A I	Feb 24	Apr 11	May 23	May 30	Nov 28
1994	B II	Feb 16	Apr 3	May 15	May 22	Nov 27
1995	C I	Mar 1	Apr 16	May 28	June 4	Dec 3
1996	A II	Feb 21	Apr 7	May 19	May 26	Dec 1
1997	B I	Feb 12	Mar 30	May 11	May 18	Nov 30
1998	C II	Feb 25	Apr 12	May 24	May 31	Nov 29
1999	A I	Feb 17	Apr 4	May 16	May 23	Nov 28
2000	B II	Mar 8	Apr 23	June 4	June 11	Dec 3
2001	C I	Feb 28	Apr 15	May 27	June 3	Dec 2
2002	A II	Feb 13	Mar 31	May 12	May 19	Dec 1
2003	B I	Mar 5	Apr 20	June 1	June 8	Nov 30
2004	C II	Feb 25	Apr 11	May 23	May 30	Nov 28
2005	A I	Feb 9	Mar 27	May 8	May 15	Nov 27
2006	B II	Mar 1	Apr 16	May 28	June 4	Dec 3
2007	C I	Feb 21	Apr 8	May 20	May 27	Dec 2
2008	A II	Feb 6	Mar 23	May 4	May 11	Nov 30
2009	B I	Feb 25	Apr 12	May 24	May 31	Nov 29
2010	C II	Feb 17	Apr 4	May 16	May 23	Nov 28
2011	A I	Mar 9	Apr 24	June 5	June 12	Nov 27
2012	B II	Feb 22	Apr 8	May 20	May 27	Dec 2
2013	C I	Feb 13	Mar 31	May 12	May 19	Dec 1
2014	A II	Mar 5	Apr 20	June 1	June 8	Nov 30
2015	B I	Feb 18	Apr 5	May 17	May 24	Nov 29
2016	C II	Feb 10	Mar 27	May 8	May 15	Nov 27
2017	A I	Mar 1	Apr 16	May 28	June 4	Dec 3
2018	B II	Feb 14	Apr 1	May 13	May 20	Dec 2
2019	C I	Mar 6	Apr 21	June 2	June 9	Dec 1
2020	A II	Feb 26	Apr 12	May 24	May 31	Nov 29
2021	B I	Feb 17	Apr 4	May 16	May 23	Nov 28
2022	C II	Mar 2	Apr 17	May 29	June 5	Nov 27
2023	A I	Feb 22	Apr 9	May 21	May 28	Dec 3
2024	B II	Feb 14	Mar 31	May 12	May 19	Dec 1
2025	C I	Mar 5	Apr 20	June 1	June 8	Nov 30
2026	A II	Feb 18	Apr 5	May 17	May 24	Nov 29
2027	B I	Feb 10	Mar 28	May 9	May 16	Nov 28
2028	C II	Mar 1	Apr 16	May 28	June 4	Dec 3
2029	A I	Feb 14	Apr 1	May 13	May 20	Dec 2
2030	B II	Mar 6	Apr 21	June 2	June 9	Dec 1

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

WEEKDAYS OF ADVENT

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

175 MONDAY

FIRST READING – YEAR A

Isaiah 4.2-6

The branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw
concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 On that day
the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious,
and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory
of the survivors of Israel.

3 Whoever is left in Zion
and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy,
everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,
4 once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion
and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst
by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.

5 Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion
and over its places of assembly
a cloud by day
and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night.
Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy.
6 It will serve as a pavilion,
a shade by day from the heat,
and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

FIRST READING – YEARS B, C

Isaiah 2.1-5

The Lord will gather the nations of the universe in the eternal peace of kingdom of God.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw
concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

2 In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
3 Many peoples shall come and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
4 He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122.1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 9-10 (R.1)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. ***R.***

3 Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
4 To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. ***R.***

5 As was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
6 For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David. ***R.***

9 For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you."
10 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Psalm 80.4

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come and save us, Lord our God;
let us see your face, and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL

Matthew 8.5-11, 13++

Many will come from east and west to the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

5 When Jesus entered Capernaum,
a centurion came to him,
6 appealing to him and saying,
"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed,
in terrible distress."
7 And Jesus said to him,
"I will come and cure him."

8 The centurion answered,
"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof;
but only speak the word,
and my servant will be healed.

9 For I also am a man under authority,
with soldiers under me;
and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes,
and to another, 'Come,' and he comes,
and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it."

10 When Jesus heard him,
he was amazed and said to those who followed him,
"Truly I tell you,
in no one in Israel have I found such faith.
11 I tell you, many will come from east and west
and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob
in the kingdom of heaven.

13 To the centurion Jesus said
"Go; let it be done for you according to your faith."
And the servant was healed in that hour.

The gospel of the Lord.

176 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11.1-10

The Spirit of the Lord will come and rest on him.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand
as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (R.7)

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. ***R.***

7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. ***R.***

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight. ***R.***

17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Behold, our Lord shall come with power;
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

GOSPEL

Luke 10.21-24

Jesus exults in the Holy Spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

The seventy returned with joy
and told Jesus all that they had done.
21 At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said,
"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent
and have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

22 "All things have been handed over to me by my Father;
and no one knows who the Son is except the Father,
or who the Father is except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

23 Then turning to the disciples,
Jesus said to them privately,
"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!
24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings
desired to see what you see, but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

The gospel of the Lord.

177 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25.6-10a

The Lord God invited all people to the feast and will wipe away the tears from all faces.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food,
a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

8 Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people
he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,
"Lo, this is our God;
we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
10 For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.6cd)

R. I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord is coming to save his people;
happy are those prepared to meet him.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15.29-37

Jesus healed many people and multiplied the loaves of bread.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

29 After Jesus had left Tyre and Sidon,
he passed along the Sea of Galilee,
and he went up the mountain, where he sat down.
30 Great crowds came to him,
bringing with them the lame,
the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others.
They put them at his feet, and he cured them,
31 so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking,
the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing.
And they praised the God of Israel.

32 Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said,

“I have compassion for the crowd,
because they have been with me now for three days
and have nothing to eat;
and I do not want to send them away hungry,
for they might faint on the way.”
33 The disciples said to him,
“Where are we to get enough bread in the desert
to feed so great a crowd?”
34 Jesus asked them,
“How many loaves have you?”
They said, “Seven, and a few small fish.”

35 Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground,
36 he took the seven loaves and the fish;
and after giving thanks he broke them
and gave them to the disciples,
and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
37 And all of them ate and were filled;
and they took up the broken pieces left over,
seven baskets full.

The gospel of the Lord.

178 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 26.1-6

The righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:
“We have a strong city;
he sets up victory like walls and bulwarks.
2 Open the gates,
so that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.
3 Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—
in peace because they trust in you.

4 “Trust in the Lord forever,
for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.
5 For he has brought low the inhabitants of the height;
the lofty city he lays low.
He lays it low to the ground,
casts it to the dust.

➢

6 The foot tramples it,
the feet of the poor,
the steps of the needy."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118.1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a (R.26a)

R. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in mortals.
9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in princes. ***R.***

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
20 This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation. ***R.***

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
27 The Lord is God,
and he has given us light. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 55.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Seek the Lord while he may be found.
Call on him while he is near.

GOSPEL

Matthew 7.21, 24-27

Everyone who fulfills the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up the mountain and sat down.
His disciples came to him and he taught them, saying:

21 "Not everyone who says to me,
'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine
and acts on them will be like a wise man
who built his house on rock.
25 The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall,
because it had been founded on rock.

26 "And everyone who hears these words of mine
and does not act on them will be like a foolish man
who built his house on sand.
27 The rain fell, and the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat against that house,
and it fell—and great was its fall!"

The gospel of the Lord.

179 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 29.17-24

On that day, the eyes of the blind shall be opened.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God says this:

17 "Shall not Lebanon, in a very little while,
become a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field be regarded as a forest?

18 "On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

➢

19 The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord,
and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.
20 For the tyrant shall be no more,
and the scoffer shall cease to be;
all those alert to do evil shall be cut off—
21 those who cause a person to lose a lawsuit,
who set a trap for the arbiter in the gate,
and without grounds deny justice to the one in the right."

22 Therefore, thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham,
concerning the house of Jacob:
"No longer shall Jacob be ashamed,
no longer shall his face grow pale.
23 For when he sees his children,
the work of my hands, in his midst,
they will sanctify my name;
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.
24 And those who err in spirit will come to understanding,
and those who grumble will accept instruction."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27.1, 4, 13-14 (R.1a)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? ***R.***

4 One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple. ***R.***

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Behold, our Lord shall come in power;
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9.27-31

The faith in Jesus of the two men who were blind brought about their healing.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

27 As Jesus went on from his own village
two men who were blind followed him, crying loudly,
"Have mercy on us, Son of David!"
28 When he entered the house, the men who were blind came to him;
and Jesus said to them,
"Do you believe that I am able to do this?"
They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then he touched their eyes and said,
"According to your faith let it be done to you."
30 And their eyes were opened.
Then Jesus sternly ordered them,
"See that no one knows of this."
31 But they went away and spread the news about him
throughout that district.

The gospel of the Lord.

180 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 30.19-21, 13-26

***The Lord God will surely be gracious to you
when the sound of your cry is heard.***

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
19 Truly, O people in Zion,
inhabitants of Jerusalem,
you shall weep no more.
He will surely be gracious to you
at the sound of your cry;
when he hears it, he will answer you.

➢

20 Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity
and the water of affliction,
yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more,
but your eyes shall see your Teacher.
21 And when you turn to the right
or when you turn to the left,
your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,
"This is the way; walk in it."

23 He will give rain for the seed
with which you sow the ground,
and grain, the produce of the ground,
which will be rich and plenteous.
On that day your cattle will graze in broad pastures;
24 and the oxen and donkeys that till the ground will eat silage,
which has been winnowed with shovel and fork.
25 On every lofty mountain and every high hill
there will be brooks running with water
—on a day of the great slaughter,
when the towers fall.

26 Moreover the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun,
and the light of the sun will be sevenfold,
like the light of seven days,
on the day when the Lord binds up the injuries of his people,
and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R. Isa 30.18)

R. Happy are all who long
for the coming of the Lord.

1 How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel. ***R.***

3 He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names. ***R.***

5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 33.22

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord will judge us by his law;
he is our King and Saviour.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9.35 - 10.1, 5a, 6-8++
Jesus saw the crowd and had compassion for them.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

35 Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues,
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and every sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them,
because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.
37 Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest."

1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean spirits,
to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.
5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:
6 "Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
7 As you go, proclaim the good news,
'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'
8 Cure the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.
You received without payment;
give without payment."

The gospel of the Lord.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

181 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35.1-10

The Lord God will come and bring salvation to you.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
2 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85.8ab-9, 10-11, 12-13 (R. Isa 35.4d)

R. Our God will come to save us!

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. ***R.***

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky. ***R.***

12 The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Behold, the king will come, the Lord of earth,
and he will set us free.

GOSPEL

Luke 5.17-26

We have seen strange and marvellous things today.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

17 One day, while Jesus was teaching,
the Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by
(they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea
and from Jerusalem);
and the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal. ➢

18 Just then some men came, carrying a man who was paralyzed on a bed.
They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus;
19 but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd,
they went up on the roof
and let him down with his bed through the tiles
into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus.
20 When he saw their faith, he said,
"Friend, your sins are forgiven you."

21 Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question,
"Who is this who is speaking blasphemies?
Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
22 When Jesus perceived their questioning,
he answered them,
"Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?
23 Which is easier,
to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,'
or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?
24 But so that you may know
that the Son of Man has authority on earth
to forgive sins"—
Jesus said to the one who was paralyzed—
"I say to you, stand up and take your bed
and go to your home."

25 Immediately the man stood up before them,
took what he had been lying on,
and went to his home, glorifying God.
26 Amazement seized all of them,
and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying,
"We have seen strange things today."

The gospel of the Lord.

182 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40.1-11

God's people are comforted.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 "Comfort, O comfort my people," says your God.
2 "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins."

3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 "Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

➢

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 "He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2, 3 & 10ac, 11-12, 13 (R. Isa 40.10a)

R. The Lord our God comes in strength.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day. ***R.***

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
He will judge the peoples with equity." ***R.***

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. ***R.***

13 Rejoice before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The day of the Lord is near:
he comes to save us.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18.12-14

God does not desire the loss of the little ones.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus asked the disciples:

12 “What do you think?
If a shepherd has a hundred sheep,
and one of them has gone astray,
does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains
and go in search of the one that went astray?

13 “And if he finds it, truly I tell you,
he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine
that never went astray.
14 So it is not the will of your Father in heaven
that one of these little ones should be lost.”

The gospel of the Lord.

183 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40.25-31

The almighty Lord strengthens the powerless.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

25 “To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

26 “Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power, not one is missing.

27 “Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
‘My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God?’
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

➢

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

29 "He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8+10 (R.1a)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

3 It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. ***R.***

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord is coming to save his people;
happy are those prepared to meet him.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11.28-30

Come to me, all you that are weary.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

At that time, Jesus spoke to the crowds and exclaimed:
28 "Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.

184 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 41.13-20

I am the Holy One of Israel and your redeemer.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:
13 "I, the Lord your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you,
'Do not fear, I will help you.'
14 "Do not fear, you worm Jacob,
you insect Israel!
I will help you," says the Lord;
"your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
15 "Now, I will make of you a threshing sledge,
sharp, new, and having teeth;
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,
and you shall make the hills like chaff.
16 You shall winnow them and the wind shall carry them away,
and the tempest shall scatter them.
Then you shall rejoice in the Lord;
in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.
17 "When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst, ➢

I the Lord will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

18 "I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.

19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
20 so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145.1+9, 10-11, 12-13ab (R.8)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.++

or: The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

1 I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
9 The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made. ***R.***

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power. ***R.***

12 To make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 45.8

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11.11-15

No one has arisen greater than John the Baptist.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples,
he went on to teach and proclaim his message
in the surrounding cities and towns.

Speaking to the crowds about John the Baptist, Jesus said:
11 "Truly I tell you, among those born of women
no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
12 From the days of John the Baptist until now
the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence,
and the violent take it by force.

13 "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came;
14 and if you are willing to accept it,
he is Elijah who is to come.
15 Let anyone with ears listen!"

The gospel of the Lord.

185 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 48.17-19

O that you had paid attention to my commandments!

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

17 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"I am the Lord your God,
who teaches you for your own good,
who leads you in the way you should go.

18 "O that you had paid attention to my commandments!
Then your prosperity would have been like a river,
and your success like the waves of the sea;
19 your offspring would have been like the sand,
and your descendants like its grains;
their name would never be cut off
or destroyed from before me."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1.1-2, 3, 4+6 (R. see Jn 8.12)

R. Those who follow you, Lord,
will have the light of life.

1 Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night. ***R.***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper. ***R.***

4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord will come; go out to meet him!
He is the prince of peace.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11.16-19

This generation listened neither to John nor to Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

16 Jesus continued to speak to the crowds about John the Baptist,
"To what will I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the marketplaces
and calling to one another,
17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say,
'He has a demon';
19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say,
'Look, a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'
Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

The gospel of the Lord.

186 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 48.1-4, 9-11

Then will arise Elijah.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 Then Elijah arose, a prophet like fire,
and his word burned like a torch.
2 He brought a famine upon the people,
and by his zeal he made them few in number.
3 By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens,
and also three times brought down fire.

4 How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!
Whose glory is equal to yours?
9 You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire,
in a chariot with horses of fire.

10 At the appointed time, it is written,
you are destined
to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury,
to turn the hearts of parents to their children,
and to restore the tribes of Jacob.
11 Happy are those who saw you
and were adorned with your love!
For we also shall surely live.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80.1ac+2b, 14-15, 17-18 (R.3)

R. Lord, let us see your face and we shall be saved.++

or: Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 Stir up your might,
and come to save us! ***R.***

14 Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
15 the stock that your right hand planted. ***R.***

17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3.4, 6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17.10-13

Elijah has come already and they did not recognize him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

After the transfiguration,
as Jesus and the disciples were coming down the mountain,
10 the disciples asked him,
"Why, then, do the scribes say
that Elijah must come first?"

11 He replied,
"Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things;
12 but I tell you that Elijah has already come,
and they did not recognize him,
but they did to him whatever they pleased.
So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands."

13 Then the disciples understood
that Jesus was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

The gospel of the Lord.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

187 MONDAY

On December 17, use no. 193. On December 18, use no. 194.

FIRST READING

Numbers 24.2-7, 15-17a

A star shall come out of Jacob.

A reading from the book of Numbers.

2 Balaam looked up and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe.
Then the spirit of God came upon him,
3 and he uttered his oracle, saying:

"The oracle of Balaam son of Beor,
the oracle of the man whose eye is clear,
4 the oracle of one who hears the words of God,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
who falls down, but with eyes uncovered:
5 how fair are your tents, O Jacob,
your encampments, O Israel!
6 Like palm groves that stretch far away,
like gardens beside a river,
like aloes that the Lord has planted,
like cedar trees beside the waters.
7 Water shall flow from his buckets,
and his seed shall have abundant water,
his king shall be higher than Agag,
and his kingdom shall be exalted."

15 Again, Balaam uttered his oracle, saying:
"The oracle of Balaam son of Beor,
the oracle of the man whose eye is clear,
16 the oracle of one who hears the words of God,
and knows the knowledge of the Most High,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
who falls down, but with his eyes uncovered:
17 I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near—
a star shall come out of Jacob,
and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25.4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9 (R.4)

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation. ***R.***

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 According to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord! ***R.***

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 84.8

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21.23-27

From where did the baptism of John come?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

23 When Jesus entered the temple,
the chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching, and said,
"By what authority are you doing these things,
and who gave you this authority?"

24 Jesus said to them,
"I will also ask you one question;
if you tell me the answer,
then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.
25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven,
or was it of human origin?"

And they argued with one another,
"If we say, 'From heaven,'
he will say to us,
'Why then did you not believe him?'

26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,'
we are afraid of the crowd;
for all regard John as a prophet."

27 So they answered Jesus,
"We do not know."
And he said to them,
"Neither will I tell you by what authority
I am doing these things."

The gospel of the Lord.

188 TUESDAY

On December 17, use no. 193. On December 18, use no. 194.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3.1-2, 9-13

Salvation is promised to the lowly and the humble.

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah,
concerning Jerusalem:

1 "Ah, soiled, defiled, oppressing city!
2 It has listened to no voice;
it has accepted no correction.
It has not trusted in the Lord;
it has not drawn near to its God.

9 "At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech,
that all of them may call on the name of the Lord
and serve him with one accord.
10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia,
my suppliants, my scattered ones,
shall bring my offering.

11 "On that day you shall not be put to shame
because of all the deeds
by which you have rebelled against me;
for then I will remove from your midst
your proudly exultant ones,
and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.

12 "For I will leave in the midst of you
a people humble and lowly. ➢

They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord—
13 the remnant of Israel;
they shall do no wrong and utter no lies,
nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths.
Then they will pasture and lie down,
and no one shall make them afraid."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 5-6, 17-18, 19+22 (R.6a)

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit. ***R.***

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all.
22 The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come, O Lord, do not delay;
forgive the sins of your people.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21.28-32

John the Baptist came and the sinners believed him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

One day when Jesus was in the temple teaching
he spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people,
and asked them this question:

28 “What do you think?
A man had two sons;
he went to the first and said,
‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’
29 He answered, ‘I will not’;
but later he changed his mind and went.
30 The father went to the second and said the same;
and he answered,
‘I will go, sir’; but he did not go.

31 “Which of the two did the will of his father?”
They said, “The first.”
Jesus said to them,
“Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes
are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness
and you did not believe him,
but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him;
and even after you saw it,
you did not change your minds and believe John.

The gospel of the Lord.

189 WEDNESDAY

For the weekdays between December 17 and 24, use the readings given in nos. 193-200.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45.6b-8, 18, 21b-25

Let the heavens rain down righteousness.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

6 “I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make well and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

8 “Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;
I the Lord have created it.” ➢

18 “For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens
(he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;
he did not create it a chaos,
he formed it to be inhabited!):
“I am the Lord, and there is no other.
21 There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Saviour;
there is no one besides me.

22 “Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.
23 By myself I have sworn,
from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness
a word that shall not return:
‘To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear.’

24 “Only in the Lord, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
all who were incensed against him
shall come to him and be ashamed.
25 In the Lord all the offspring of Israel shall triumph and glory.”

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85.8ab-9, 10-11, 12-14 (R. Isa 45.8)

R. Let the clouds rain down the Just One.++

or: Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people.
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. ***R.***

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky. ***R.***

12 The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Isaiah 40.9-10**

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Raise your voice and tell the good news:
The Lord our God comes in strength.

GOSPEL

Luke 7.19-23

Tell John what you have heard and seen.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

The disciples of John the Baptist reported to him
all that Jesus was doing.
So John summoned two of his disciples
19 and sent them to the Lord to ask,
"Are you the one who is to come,
or are we to wait for another?"

20 When the men had come to Jesus, they said,
"John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask,
'Are you the one who is to come,
or are we to wait for another?'"

21 Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases,
plagues, and evil spirits,
and had given sight to many who were blind.

22 And Jesus answered them,
"Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
the poor have good news brought to them.
23 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

The gospel of the Lord.

190 THURSDAY

For the weekdays between December 17 and 24, use the readings given in nos. 193-200.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 54.1-10

The Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to Jerusalem:

1 "Sing, O barren one who did not bear;
burst into song and shout,
you who have not been in labour!
For the children of the desolate woman
will be more than the children of her that is married,
says the Lord.

2 "Enlarge the site of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.
3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left,
and your descendants will possess the nations
and will settle the desolate towns.

4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;
do not be discouraged,
for you will not suffer disgrace;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.
5 For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.
6 For the Lord has called you
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off,"
says your God.

7 "For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
8 In overflowing wrath for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,"
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

9 “This is like the days of Noah to me:
Just as I swore
that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
and will not rebuke you.
10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,”
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 30.1+3, 4-5, 10-11ac+12 (R.1a)

R. I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

1 I will extol you, O Lord,
for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
3 O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life
from among those gone down to the Pit. ***R.***

4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
5 For his anger is but for a moment;
his favour is for a life time.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning. ***R.***

10 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!
11 You have turned my mourning into dancing;
and clothed me with joy,
12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3.4,6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL

Luke 7.24-30

John is the messenger, who prepares the way for the Lord.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

24 When John the Baptist's messengers had gone,
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:
"What did you go out into the wilderness to look at?
A reed shaken by the wind?
25 What then did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in soft robes?
Look, those who put on fine clothing
and live in luxury are in royal palaces.
26 What then did you go out to see?
A prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
27 This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

28 "I tell you, among those born of women
no one is greater than John;
yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."
29 And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors,
acknowledged the justice of God,
because they had been baptized with John's baptism.
30 But by refusing to be baptized by him,
the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves."

The gospel of the Lord.

191 FRIDAY

For the weekdays between December 17 and 24, use the readings given in nos. 193-200.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56.1-3a, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:
My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 Thus says the Lord:
"Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

2 "Happy is the mortal who does this,
the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil.

3 "Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say,
'The Lord will surely separate me from his people'.
6 For the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

8 Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
"I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 67.1-2, 4, 6-7 (R.3)

R. O God, let the nations praise you!

1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
2 that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations. ***R.***

4 Let the nations be glad
and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. ***R.***

6 The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
7 May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come, Lord, bring us your peace;
let us rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

GOSPEL

John 5.16-17, 33-36++

John is a lamp, burning and shining.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the festival,
and healed a man who was paralyzed on the Sabbath.
16 Therefore the Jewish leaders started persecuting Jesus,
because he was doing such things on the Sabbath.
But Jesus answered them,
17 "My Father is still working, and I am also still working.
33 You sent messengers to John the Baptist,
and he testified to the truth.
34 Not that I accept such human testimony,
but I say these things so that you may be saved.
35 He was a burning and shining lamp,
and you were willing to rejoice
for a while in his light.

36 "But I have a testimony greater than John's.
The works that the Father has given me to complete,
the very works that I am doing,
testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

192 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS - ADVENT WEEKDAYS

For weekdays before December 17.

These texts may be used in place of the texts proposed for each day.

See Psalm 80:4
Come and save us, Lord our God;
let us see your face, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 85:8
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Isaiah 33:22
The Lord will judge us by his law;
he is our King and Saviour.

See Isaiah 40:9-10
Raise your voice and tell the good news:
the Lord our God comes in strength.

See Isaiah 45:8
Let the clouds rain down the Just One,
and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

Isaiah 55:6
Seek the Lord while he can be found.
Call on him while he is near.

Luke 3:4, 6
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

The Lord will come; go out to meet him!
He is the prince of peace.

Behold, our Lord shall come with power;
he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

The Lord is coming to save his people;
happy are those prepared to meet him.

Behold, the king will come, the Lord of earth:
and he will set us free.

The day of the Lord is near:
he comes to save us.

Come, O Lord, do not delay:
forgive the sins of your people.

Come, Lord, bring us your peace;
let us rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

ADVENT WEEKDAYS - DECEMBER 17 TO 24

When a Sunday occurs between December 17 and 24, the weekday readings for that day are omitted. They may be used on another day, especially to avoid duplicating the Sunday readings.++

193 DECEMBER 17

FIRST READING

Genesis 49.2, 8-10

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob called his sons, and said:
"Gather around,
that I may tell you what will happen to you in days to come.
2 Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob;
listen to Israel your father.

8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
your father's sons shall bow down before you.
9 Judah is a lion's cub;
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion,
like a lioness—who dares rouse him?

10 "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;
and the obedience of the peoples is his."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 17 (R.7)

R. Justice and peace shall flourish for ever.++

or: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. ***R.***

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. ***R.***

7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. ***R.***

17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
teach us to walk in the path of knowledge!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1.1-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Aram,
4 Aram the father of Aminadab,
Aminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
5 Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
6 and Jesse the father of King David. ➢

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,
7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asaph,
8 Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
Joram the father of Uzziah,
9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amos, the father of Josiah,
11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers,
at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel,
Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
14 Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
15 Eliud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary,
of whom Jesus was born,
who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations;
and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations;
and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

The gospel of the Lord.

194 DECEMBER 18

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23.5-8

I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

5 “The days are surely coming,” says the Lord,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
and he shall reign as king and deal wisely,
and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

6 “In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
And this is the name by which he will be called:
‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

7 “Therefore, the days are surely coming,”
says the Lord,
“when it shall no longer be said,
‘As the Lord lives
who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt,’
8 but ‘As the Lord lives
who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel
out of the land of the north
and out of all the lands where he had driven them.’
Then they shall live in their own land.”

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 12-13, 18-19 (R.7)

R. Justice and peace shall flourish for ever.++

or: Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king’s son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. ***R.***

12 For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy. ***R.***

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
19 Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Leader of ancient Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
rescue us with your mighty power!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1.18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, son of David.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

18 The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man
and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
planned to dismiss her quietly.
20 But just when he had resolved to do this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
21 She will bear a son,
and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place
to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord
through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.”

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep,
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;
he took Mary as his wife.

The gospel of the Lord.

195 DECEMBER 19

FIRST READING

Judges 13.2-7, 24-25a

The angel of the Lord appeared and announced the birth of Samson.

A reading from the book of Judges.

2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of Dan,
whose name was Manoah.
His wife was barren, having borne no children.
3 And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman
and said to her,
"Although you are barren, having borne no children,
you shall conceive and bear a son.
4 Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink,
or to eat anything unclean,
5 for you shall conceive and bear a son.
No razor is to come on his head,
for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth.
It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel
from the hand of the Philistines."

6 Then the woman came and told her husband,
"A man of God came to me,
and his appearance was like that of an angel of God,
most awe-inspiring;
I did not ask him where he came from,
and he did not tell me his name;
7 but he said to me,
'You shall conceive and bear a son.
So then drink no wine or strong drink,
and eat nothing unclean,
for the boy shall be a nazirite
to God from birth to the day of his death.'" ➢

24 The woman bore a son, and named him Samson.
The boy grew, and the Lord blessed him.
25 The spirit of the Lord began to stir him.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71.3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 (R.8)

R. Fill me with your praise and I will sing your glory!

3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
4 Rescue me, O my God,
from the hand of the wicked. ***R.***

5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
6 Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb. ***R.***

16 I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God,
I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.
17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Flower of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
save us without delay!

GOSPEL

Luke 1.5-25

The angel Gabriel announces the birth of John the Baptist.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea,
there was a priest named Zechariah,
who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah.
His wife was a descendant of Aaron,
and her name was Elizabeth.
6 Both of them were righteous before God,
living blamelessly according to all the commandments
and regulations of the Lord.

7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren,
and both were getting on in years.

8 Once when Zechariah was serving as priest before God
and his section was on duty,
9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood,
to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense.
10 Now at the time of the incense offering,
the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord,
standing at the right side of the altar of incense.
12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified;
and fear overwhelmed him.

13 But the angel said to him,
"Do not be afraid, Zechariah,
for your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
and you will name him John.
14 You will have joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth,
15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.
He must never drink wine or strong drink;
even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.
16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.
17 With the spirit and power of Elijah
he will go before him,
to turn the hearts of parents to their children,
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous,
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

18 Zechariah said to the angel,
"How will I know that this is so?
For I am an old man,
and my wife is getting on in years."

19 The angel replied,
"I am Gabriel.
I stand in the presence of God,
and I have been sent to speak to you
and to bring you this good news.
20 But now, because you did not believe my words,
which will be fulfilled in their time,
you will become mute, unable to speak,
until the day these things occur."

21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah,
and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary.
22 When he did come out,
he could not speak to them,
and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary.
He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.
23 When his time of service was ended,
he went to his home.

24 After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived,
and for five months she remained in seclusion.
25 She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me
when he looked favourably on me
and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

The gospel of the Lord.

196 DECEMBER 20

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d

Behold, the virgin is with child.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

10 The Lord spoke to Isaiah and said,
"Go out to meet Ahaz, and say to the King:
11 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.'"

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask,
and I will not put the Lord to the test."

13 Then Isaiah said:
"Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary mortals,
that you weary my God also?
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel,"
that is, God is with us.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24.1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 (R.7c+10c)

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
2 for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers. ***R.***

3 Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
4 Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false. ***R.***

5 They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
6 Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom:
free the prisoners of darkness!

GOSPEL

Luke 1.26-38

You will conceive in your womb and bear a son.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came to her and said,
"Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.
29 But Mary was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.
31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.

➢

32 He will be great,
and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"
35 The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.

36 "And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age
has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
37 For nothing will be impossible with God."
38 Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

197 DECEMBER 21

An optional reading is given below.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3.14-18a

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
18 as on a day of festival.”

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Song of Songs 2.8-14

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains.

A reading from the Song of Songs.

8 The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,
looking through the lattice.

10 My beloved speaks and says to me:
“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
11 for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.
12 The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
13 The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
14 O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face,
let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.2-3, 11-12, 20-21 (R.1a+3a)

R. Cry out with joy to the Lord.++

or: Cry out with joy to the Lord, you holy ones;
sing a new song to him.

2 Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
3 Sing to him a new song;
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ***R.***

11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. ***R.***

20 Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
21 Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Emmanuel,
God's presence among us, our King, our Judge:
save us, Lord our God!

GOSPEL

Luke 1.39-45

Why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

39 Mary set out and went with haste
to a Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leaped in her womb.
And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry:

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfillment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.

198 DECEMBER 22

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 1.24-28

Hannah gave thanks for the birth of her son, Samuel.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

24 When Hannah had weaned her son Samuel,
she took him up with her,
along with a three-year-old bull,
a measure of flour, and a skin of wine.
She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh;
and the child was young.

25 Then they slaughtered the bull,
and they brought the child to Eli.
26 And Hannah said,
"Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord,
I am the woman who was standing here in your presence,
praying to the Lord.
27 For this child I prayed;
and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him.

28 "Therefore I have lent this child to the Lord;
as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord."
Hannah left Samuel there for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R.1a)

R. My hearts rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes.
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
King of all nations,
source of your Church's unity and faith:
save all people, your own creation!

GOSPEL

Luke 1.46-56

The Mighty One has done great things for me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary set out to visit Elizabeth.
After hearing her greeting, Mary said,
46 "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 "God's mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

54 "The Lord has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

56 Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months,
then returned to her home.

The gospel of the Lord.

199 DECEMBER 23

FIRST READING

Malachi 3.1-4; 4.5-6

I shall send my messenger, the prophet Elijah,
to prepare for the coming of the day of the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord to Israel:
1 "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—
indeed, he is coming,"
says the Lord of hosts.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.
4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
will be pleasing to the Lord,
as in the days of old and as in former years. ➢

5 “Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah
before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.
6 He will turn the hearts of parents to their children
and the hearts of children to their parents,
so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.”

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25.4bc-5ab, 8-9, 10+14 (R. Lk 21.28)

R. Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.

4 Make me know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation. ***R.***

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. ***R.***

10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
14 The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Emmanuel,
God’s presence among us, our King, our Judge:
save us, Lord our God!

GOSPEL

Luke 1.57-66

The nativity of John the Baptist.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth,
and she bore a son.
58 Her neighbours and relatives heard
that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her,
and they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child,
and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.
60 But his mother said,
"No; he is to be called John."
61 They said to her,
"None of your relatives has this name."

62 Then they began motioning to his father
to find out what name he wanted to give him.
63 He asked for a writing tablet and wrote,
"His name is John."
And all of them were amazed.

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed,
and he began to speak, praising God.
65 Fear came over all their neighbours,
and all these things were talked about
throughout the entire hill country of Judea.
66 All who heard them pondered them and said,
"What then will this child become?"
For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

The gospel of the Lord.

200 DECEMBER 24 In the Morning

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-12, 16

The kingdom of David shall last forever before the Lord.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 Now when King David was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
2 the king said to the prophet Nathan,
"See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent."

3 Nathan said to the king,
"Go, do all that you have in mind;
for the Lord is with you."

4 But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5 "Go and tell my servant David:
Thus says the Lord:
Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ➢

8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:
Thus says the Lord of hosts:
I took you from the pasture,
from following the sheep
to be prince over my people Israel;
9 and I have been with you wherever you went,
and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth.

10 "And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,
so that they may live in their own place,
and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

"Moreover the Lord declares to you
that the Lord will make you a house.
12 When your days are fulfilled
and you lie down with your ancestors,
I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.
16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne shall be established forever."

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 26+28 (R.2a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord,
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
4 I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations." ***R.***

26 He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"
28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come,
Radiant Dawn,
splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:
shine on those lost in the darkness of death!

GOSPEL

Luke 1.67-79

The dawn from on high will break upon us.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

After Zechariah had named his son John,
his mouth was opened and he began praising God.
67 Then Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke this prophecy:

68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 "Thus the Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
74 to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78 By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The gospel of the Lord.

For the text for a Mass during the afternoon of December 24, before or after Evening Prayer I of Christmas, see no. 13 (page 54), the Vigil of Christmas in Volume I, Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities.

201 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – ADVENT WEEKDAYS

For weekdays between December 17-24.

These verses may be used instead of the texts in place for each day.

Come,
Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
teach us to walk in the path of knowledge!

Come,
Leader of ancient Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
rescue us with your mighty power!

Come,
Flower of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
save us without delay!

Come,
Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom:
free the prisoners of darkness!

Come,
Radiant Dawn,
splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:
shine on those lost in the darkness of death!

Come,
King of all nations,
source of your Church's unity and faith:
save all people, your own creation!

Come,
Emmanuel,
God's presence among us, our King, our Judge:
save us, Lord our God!

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

WEEKDAYS OF CHRISTMAS

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

696 STEPHEN

DECEMBER 26

The first martyr

Second Day in the Octave of Christmas - Feast

FIRST READING

Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59

I see the heavens opened!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

8 Stephen, full of grace and power,
did great wonders and signs among the people.

9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen
(as it was called),
Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia,
stood up and argued with Stephen.
10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit
with which Stephen spoke.

54 When his enemies heard what Stephen proclaimed,
they became enraged and ground their teeth at him.

55 But filled with the Holy Spirit,
he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 "Look," he said,
"I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 But his enemies covered their ears,
and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him;
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While he was being stoned, Stephen prayed,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.26a, 27a

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:
the Lord shines upon us.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10.17-22

No, you will not be the one speaking:
the Spirit of your Father will speak through you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve:
17 "Beware of those who oppose you, for they will hand you over to councils
and flog you in their synagogues;
18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me,
as a testimony to them and the Gentiles.

19 "When they hand you over,
do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say;
for what you are to say will be given to you at that time;
20 for it is not you who speak,
but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child,
and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;
22 and you will be hated by all because of my name.
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

The gospel of the Lord.

697 JOHN — DECEMBER 27

apostle, evangelist

Third Day in the Octave of Christmas - Feast

FIRST READING — 1 John 1.1-4

We reveal to you what we have seen and heard.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:
1 We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life—
2 this life was revealed,
and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us—
3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have communion with us;
and truly our communion is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM — Psalm 97. 1-2, 5-6, 11-12 (R.12a)

R. Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

1 The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. ***R.***

5 The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory. ***R.***

11 Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
the glorious company of apostles praise you.

GOSPEL

John 20.2-8

The other disciples outdistanced Peter, and arrived first at the tomb of Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

2 On the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,
the one whom Jesus loved,
and said to them,
"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him."

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.
4 The two were running together,
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,
but he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.
He saw the linen wrappings lying there,
7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head;
it was not lying with the linen wrappings
but rolled up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in,
and he saw and believed.

The gospel of the Lord.

698 HOLY INNOCENTS

DECEMBER 28

martyrs

Fourth Day in the Octave of Christmas - Feast

FIRST READING

1 John 1.5 - 2.2

Christ's blood cleanses us from all sin.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:
5 This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ
and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have communion with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have communion with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned,
we make him a liar,
and his word is not in us.

1 My little children,
I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only
but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7ab)

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

2 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us. ***R.***

4 Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ***R.***

7 The snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2.13-18

Herod killed all the little boys in and around Bethlehem.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

13 After the wise men had left,
an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Get up, take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you;
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

14 Then Joseph got up,
took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
15 and remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,
"Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,
he was infuriated,
and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem
who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ➢

17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The gospel of the Lord.

202 FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29

FIRST READING

1 John 2.3-11

Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light.

A reading from the first letter of John.

3 My little children,
Now by this we may be sure that we know God,
if we obey his commandments.
4 Whoever says,
"I have come to know God," but does not obey his commandments,
is a liar,
and in such a person the truth does not exist;
5 but whoever obeys his word,
truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection.
By this we may be sure that we are in him:
6 whoever says,
"I abide in him," ought to walk just as he walked.
7 Beloved, I am not writing you a new commandment,
but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning;
the old commandment is the word that you have heard.
8 Yet I am writing you a new commandment
that is true in him and in you,
because the darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining.
9 Whoever says, "I am in the light,"
while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness.
10 Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light,
and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling.

11 But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness,
walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go,
because the darkness has brought on blindness.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.11a)

R. Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
Tell of his salvation from day to day. ***R.***

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods. ***R.***

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
6 Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 2.32

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the light of revelation to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-35

The light to reveal the salvation to the nations.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

22 When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord
23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord,
"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),
24 and they offered a sacrifice
according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ➢

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,
28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed
at what was being said about him.
34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising
of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed
—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

The gospel of the Lord.

203 SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 30

FIRST READING

1 John 2.12-17

Those who do the will of God live forever.

A reading from the first letter of John.

12 I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I am writing to you, young people,
because you have conquered the evil one.

14 I write to you, children, because you know the Father.
I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young people, because you are strong
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world.
The love of the Father is not in those who love the world;
16 for all that is in the world
—the desire of the flesh,
the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—
comes not from the Father but from the world.
17 And the world and its desire are passing away,
but those who do the will of God live forever.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.7-8, 9-10ab, 10c-12a (R.11a)

R. Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts. ***R.***

9 Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.
10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved." ***R.***

"He will judge the peoples with equity."
11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.36-40

Anna began to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

36 The parents of Jesus came to Jerusalem to present the child Jesus.
In the Temple, there was also a prophet, Anna
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple
but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
38 At that moment she came,
and began to praise God and to speak about the child
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favour of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

204 SEVENTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31

FIRST READING

1 John 2.18-21

You have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge.

A reading from the first letter of John.

18 Children,
it is the last hour!
As you have heard that antichrist is coming,
so now many antichrists have come.
From this we know that it is the last hour.
19 They went out from us, but they did not belong to us;
for if they had belonged to us,
they would have remained with us.
But by going out they made it plain
that none of them belongs to us.
20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One,
and all of you have knowledge.

21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth,
but because you know it,
and you know that no lie comes from the truth.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2, 11-12, 13 (R.11a)

R. Let heaven and earth exult in joy!

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day. ***R.***

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. ***R.***

13 Rejoice before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 1.14.12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

GOSPEL

John 1.1-18

The word became flesh.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God.
3 All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.
4 What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people. ➢

5 The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
7 He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
8 He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.

9 The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.
10 He was in the world,
and the world came into being through him;
yet the world did not know him.
11 He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.

12 But to all who received him,
who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
13 who were born, not of blood
or of the will of the flesh
or of the will of man,
but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

15 John testified to him and cried out,
"This was he of whom I said,
'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.'"

16 From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.
17 The law indeed was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
18 No one has ever seen God.
It is God the only Son,
who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

WEEKDAYS BETWEEN NEW YEAR'S DAY AND EPIPHANY

205 JANUARY 2

FIRST READING

1 John 2.22-28

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.

A reading from the first letter of John.

22 My little ones,
who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
This is the antichrist,
the one who denies the Father and the Son.
23 No one who denies the Son has the Father;
everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also.
24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.
If what you heard from the beginning abides in you,
then you will abide in the Son and in the Father.
25 And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

26 I write these things to you
concerning those who would deceive you.
27 As for you,
the anointing that you received from him abides in you,
and so you do not need anyone to teach you.
But as his anointing teaches you about all things,
and is true and is not a lie,
and just as it has taught you,
abide in him.

28 And now, little children, abide in him,
so that when he is revealed we may have confidence
and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (R.3cd)

R. All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of our God.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 1.1-2

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now God speaks to us through the Son.

GOSPEL

John 1.19-28

In your midst is the one who is coming after me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

19 This is the testimony given by John
when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Levites
from Jerusalem to ask him,
"Who are you?"
20 He confessed and did not deny it,
but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

21 And they asked him,
"What then? Are you Elijah?"
John said, "I am not."
"Are you the prophet?"
He answered, "No."

22 Then they said to him, "Who are you?
Let us have an answer for those who sent us.
What do you say about yourself?"

23 John said,
“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.
24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
25 They asked him,
“Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,
nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”
26 John answered them,
“I baptize with water.
Among you stands one whom you do not know,
27 the one who is coming after me;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”
28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan
where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

206 JANUARY 3

FIRST READING

1 John 2.29; 3.1-6

No one who abides in God sins.

A reading from the first letter of John.

29 Little children,
if you know that God is righteous,
you may be sure that everyone who does right has been born of him.
1 See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are.
The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.
2 Beloved, we are God’s children now;
what we will be has not yet been revealed.
What we do know is this:
when he is revealed, we will be like him,
for we will see him as he is.
3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves,
just as he is pure.

➢

4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness;
sin is lawlessness.
5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins,
and in him there is no sin.
6 No one who abides in him sins;
no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 3cd-4, 5-6 (R.3cd)

R. All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of our God.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

3 All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 1.14, 12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

GOSPEL

John 1.29-34

Here is the Lamb of God

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

29 John the Baptist had given testimony to the priests and Levites
who had been sent by the leaders of the Jews.
The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared,
“Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
30 This is he of whom I said,
‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me
because he was before me.’

31 I myself did not know him;
but I came baptizing with water for this reason,
that he might be revealed to Israel."

32 And John testified,
"I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove,
and it remained on him.
33 I myself did not know him,
but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me,
'He on whom you see the Spirit descend
and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'
34 And I myself have seen and have testified
that this is the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

207 JANUARY 4

FIRST READING

1 John 3.7-10

Those who have ben born of God do not sin.

A reading from the first letter of John.

7 Little children,
let no one deceive you.
Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.
8 Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil;
for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.
The Son of God was revealed for this purpose,
to destroy the works of the devil.
9 Those who have been born of God do not sin,
because God's seed abides in them;
they cannot sin, because they have been born of God.
10 The children of God
and the children of the devil are revealed in this way:
all who do not do what is right are not from God,
nor are those who do not love their brothers and sisters.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 7-8, 9 (R.3cd)

R. All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of our God.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
8 Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy. ***R.***

9 Sing with joy at the presence of the Lord,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 1.1-2

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now God speaks to us through the Son.

GOSPEL

John 1.35-42

We have found the Messiah.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

35 John was standing with two of his disciples,
36 and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,
“Look, here is the Lamb of God!”
37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.
38 When Jesus turned and saw them following,
he said to them, “What are you looking for?”
They said to him, “Rabbi”
(which translated means Teacher),
“where are you staying?”
39 He said to them, “Come and see.”
They came and saw where he was staying,
and they remained with him that day.
It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

40 One of the two who heard John speak
and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him,
“We have found the Messiah”
(which is translated Anointed).
42 He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said,
“You are Simon son of John.
You are to be called Cephas”
(which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.

208 JANUARY 5

FIRST READING

1 John 3.11-21

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another.

A reading from the first letter of John.

11 My little children,
this is the message you have heard from the beginning,
that we should love one another.
12 We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one
and murdered his brother.
And why did he murder him?
Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.
13 Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters,
that the world hates you.
14 We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love one another.
Whoever does not love abides in death.
15 All who hate a brother or sister are murderers,
and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.
16 We know love by this,
that he laid down his life for us
—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.
17 How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods
and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

18 Little children,
let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.
19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him

➢

20 whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved,
if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 100.1-2, 3, 4, 5, (R.1a)

R. Let all the earth cry out with joy.

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing. ***R.***

3 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ***R.***

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name. ***R.***

5 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

GOSPEL

John 1.43-51

Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After choosing Andrew and Peter to be his first disciples,
43 Jesus decided to go to Galilee.
He found Philip and said to him,
"Follow me."
44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
"We have found him
about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote,
Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."
46 Nathanael said to him,
"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"
Philip said to him, "Come and see."

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him,
"Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"
48 Nathanael asked him,
"Where did you get to know me?"
Jesus answered,
"I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."
49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God!
You are the King of Israel!"
50 Jesus answered,
"Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?
You will see greater things than these."

51 And Jesus said to him,
"Very truly, I tell you,
you will see heaven opened
and the angels of God ascending and descending
above the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

209 JANUARY 6

FIRST READING

1 John 5.5-13

The Spirit and the water and the blood: these three agree.

A reading from the first letter of John.

5 Beloved,
who is it that conquers the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
6 This is the one who came by water and blood,
Jesus Christ,
not with the water only
but with the water and the blood. ➢

And the Spirit is the one that testifies,
for the Spirit is the truth.
7 There are three that testify:
8 the Spirit and the water and the blood,
and these three agree.

9 If we receive human testimony,
the testimony of God is greater;
for this is the testimony of God
that he has testified to his Son.
10 Those who believe in the Son of God
have the testimony in their hearts.
Those who do not believe in God
have made him a liar
by not believing in the testimony
that God has given concerning his Son.

11 And this is the testimony:
God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.
12 Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147.12-13, 14-15, 19-20 (R.12a)

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you. ***R.***

14 He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
15 He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly. ***R.***

19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Mark 9.7

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.4-5, 7-11++

You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
5 And people from the whole Judean countryside
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 John proclaimed,
"The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
8 I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
10 And just as he was coming up out of the water,
Jesus saw the heavens torn apart
and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
11 And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

210 JANUARY 7

FIRST READING

1 John 5.14-21

If we ask anything according to his will, God hears us.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved ones,
13 I write these things to you
who believe in the name of the Son of God,
so that you may know that you have eternal life.
14 And this is the boldness we have in him,
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask,
we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.
16 If you see your brother or sister committing what is not a mortal sin,
you will ask, and God will give life to such a one
—to those whose sin is not mortal.
There is sin that is mortal;
I do not say that you should pray about that.
17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not mortal.

18 We know that those who are born of God do not sin,
but the one who was born of God protects them,
and the evil one does not touch them.
19 We know that we are God's children,
and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one.
20 And we know that the Son of God has come
and has given us understanding
so that we may know him who is true;
and we are in him who is true,
in his Son Jesus Christ.
He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children,
keep yourselves from idols.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 149.1-2, 3-4, 5-6a+9b (R.4a)

R. The Lord takes delight in his people.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. ***R.***

3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory. ***R.***

5 Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats
9 This is glory for all his faithful ones. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 7.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

GOSPEL

John 2.1-12

Jesus performed the first of his signs in Cana of Galilee.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
"They have no wine."
4 And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants,
"Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now standing there were six stone water jars
for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding about a hundred litres. [twenty or thirty gallons.]
7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water."
And they filled them up to the brim. ➢

8 He said to them, "Now draw some out,
and take it to the chief steward."
So they took it.

9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
10 the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
"Everyone serves the good wine first,
and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.
But you have kept the good wine until now."

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,
and revealed his glory;
and his disciples believed in him.
12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother,
his brothers, and his disciples;
and they remained there a few days.

The gospel of the Lord.

211 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – CHRISTMAS SEASON

For the weekdays before Epiphany

These texts may be used in place of the texts proposed for each day.

John 1.14a, 12a
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Hebrews 1.1-2
In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now God speaks to us through the Son.

A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

See Mk. 9.7
The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

WEEKDAYS BETWEEN EPIPHANY AND THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

212 MONDAY AFTER EPIPHANY or JANUARY 7

FIRST READING

1 John 3.22 - 4.6

Test the spirits to see whether they are from God.

A reading from the first letter of John.

22 My dear people,
we receive from God whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.
23 And this is his commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
24 All who obey his commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits to see whether they are from God;
for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
2 By this you know the Spirit of God:
every spirit that confesses
that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.
And this is the spirit of the antichrist,
of which you have heard that it is coming;
and now it is already in the world.

4 Little children,
you are from God, and have conquered them;
for the one who is in you is greater
than the one who is in the world.
5 They are from the world;
therefore what they say is from the world,
and the world listens to them.

➢

6 We are from God.
Whoever knows God listens to us,
and whoever is not from God does not listen to us.
From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 2.7-8, 10-11 (R.8a)

R. I will give you all the nations for your heritage.

7 I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
"You are my son; today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession." ***R.***

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the Lord with fear,
with trembling kiss his feet. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4.12-17, 23-25

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested,
he withdrew to Galilee.
13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea,
in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah
might be fulfilled:

15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom
and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.
24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria,
and they brought to him all the sick,
those with various diseases and pains,
those possessed by demons,
those afflicted with epilepsy and paralysis,
and Jesus cured them.
25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee,
the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea,
and from beyond the Jordan.

The gospel of the Lord.

213 TUESDAY AFTER EPIPHANY or JANUARY 8

FIRST READING

1 John 4.7-10

Let us love one another for God is love.

A reading from the first letter of John.

7 Beloved,
let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8 Whoever does not love does not know God,
for God is love.
9 God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him.
10 In this is love,
not that we loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

➢

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8 (R. see 11)

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. ***R.***

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy. ***R.***

7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
8 May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.34-44

In the feeding of the crowd, Jesus reveals himself as a prophet.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and the disciples got into a boat
and went off to a deserted place.
But many people hurried there before them,
34 so that as Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.

35 When it grew late,
his disciples came to him and said,
"This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late;
36 send them away so that they may go
into the surrounding country and villages
and buy something for themselves to eat."
37 But Jesus answered them,
"You give them something to eat."
They said to him,
"Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread,
and give it to them to eat?"

38 And he said to them,
"How many loaves have you? Go and see."

When they had found out, they said,
"Five, and two fish."

39 Then he ordered them to get all the people
to sit down in groups on the green grass.

40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties.

41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish,
Jesus looked up to heaven,
and blessed and broke the loaves,
and gave them to his disciples to set before the people;
and he divided the two fish among them all.

42 And all ate and were filled;

43 and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces
and of the fish.

44 Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

The gospel of the Lord.

214 WEDNESDAY AFTER EPIPHANY or JANUARY 9

FIRST READING

1 John 4.11-18

If we love one another, God lives in us.

A reading from the first letter of John.

11 Beloved,
since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God;
if we love one another, God lives in us,
and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,
because he has given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen
and do testify that the Father has sent his Son
as the Saviour of the world.

15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God,
and they abide in God. ➢

16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.
God is love,
and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this:
that we may have boldness on the day of judgment,
because as he is,
so are we in this world.
18 There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear;
for fear has to do with punishment,
and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 10-11, 12-13, (R.11)

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. ***R.***

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
11 May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service. ***R.***

12 For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See 1 Timothy 3.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Glory to Christ who is proclaimed to the world:
glory from all who believe in him!

GOSPEL

Mark 6.45-52

The disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

45 After feeding the five thousand with the loaves and fish,
Jesus made his disciples get into the boat
and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida,
while he dismissed the crowd.
46 After saying farewell to them,
he went up on the mountain to pray.

47 When evening came, the boat was out on the sea,
and Jesus was alone on the land.
48 When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind,
he came towards them early in the morning walking on the sea.
He intended to pass them by.
49 But when they saw him walking on the sea,
they thought it was a ghost and cried out;
50 for they all saw him and were terrified.
But immediately he spoke to them and said,
"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

51 Then Jesus got into the boat with them and the wind ceased.
And they were utterly astounded,
52 for they did not understand about the loaves,
but their hearts were hardened.

The gospel of the Lord.

215 THURSDAY AFTER EPIPHANY or JANUARY 10

FIRST READING

1 John 4.19 - 5.4

Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A reading from the first letter of John.

19 My dear children,
We love because he first loved us.
20 Those who say, "I love God,"
and hate their brothers or sisters are liars;
for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen,
cannot love God whom they have not seen. ➢

21 The commandment we have from him is this:
those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.
Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God,
and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and obey his commandments.
3 For the love of God is this,
that we obey his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world.
And this is the victory that conquers the world,
our faith.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-2, 14-15bc, 17 (R. see 11)

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice. ***R.***

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.
15 May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long. ***R.***

17 May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

GOSPEL

Luke 4.14-22a

Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

14 Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee,
and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.
15 He began to teach in their synagogues
and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up,
he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom.
He stood up to read,
17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.
He unrolled the scroll
and found the place where it was written:
18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

20 And Jesus rolled up the scroll,
gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.
The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.
21 Then he began to say to them,
"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words
that came from his mouth.

The gospel of the Lord.

216 FRIDAY AFTER EPIPHANY or JANUARY 11

FIRST READING

1 John 5.5-13

There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree.

A reading from the first letter of John.

5 My beloved people,
who is it that conquers the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is the one who came by water and blood,
Jesus Christ,
not with the water only but with the water and the blood.
And the Spirit is the one that testifies,
for the Spirit is the truth.
7 There are three that testify:
8 the Spirit and the water and the blood,
and these three agree.

9 If we receive human testimony,
the testimony of God is greater;
for this is the testimony of God
that he has testified to his Son.
10 Those who believe in the Son of God
have the testimony in their hearts.
Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar
by not believing in the testimony
that God has given concerning his Son.
11 And this is the testimony:
God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.
12 Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you
who believe in the name of the Son of God,
so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147.12-13, 14-15, 19-20 (R.12a)

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you. ***R.***

14 He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
15 He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly. ***R.***

19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Luke 5.12-16

The man covered with leprosy begged Jesus to heal him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

12 When Jesus was in one of the cities,
there was a man covered with leprosy.
When he saw Jesus,
he bowed with his face to the ground and begged him,
"Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean."

13 Then Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said,
"I do choose. Be made clean."
Immediately the leprosy left him.
14 And Jesus ordered him to tell no one.
"Go," he said, "and show yourself to the priest,
and, as Moses commanded, make an offering for your cleansing,
for a testimony to them."

15 But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad;
many crowds would gather to hear him
and to be cured of their diseases.
16 But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray.

The gospel of the Lord.

217 SATURDAY AFTER EPIPHANY or JANUARY 12

FIRST READING

1 John 5.14-21

If we ask anything according to his will, God hears us.

A reading from the first letter of John.

My dear people,
14 this is the boldness we have in God,
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.
15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask,
we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.
16 If you see your brother or sister
committing what is not a mortal sin,
you will ask, and God will give life to such a one
—to those whose sin is not mortal.
There is sin that is mortal;
I do not say that you should pray about that.
17 All wrongdoing is sin,
but there is sin that is not mortal.
18 We know that those who are born of God do not sin,
but the one who was born of God protects them,
and the evil one does not touch them.
19 We know that we are God's children,
and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come
and has given us understanding
so that we may know him who is true;
and we are in him who is true,
in his Son Jesus Christ.
He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children,
keep yourselves from idols.

The word of the Lord.

A short period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 149.1-2, 3-4, 5-6a+9b (R.4a)

R. The Lord takes delight in his people.

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. ***R.***

3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory. ***R.***

5 Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats.
This is glory for all his faithful ones. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A people in darkness have seen a great light;
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

GOSPEL

John 3.22-30

The friend of the bridegroom rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

22 Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside,
and he spent some time there with them and baptized.
23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim
because water was abundant there;
and people kept coming and were being baptized.
24 John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.

25 Now a discussion about purification arose
between John's disciples and a Jew.
26 They came to John and said to him,
"Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan,
to whom you testified,
here he is baptizing, and all are going to him."

27 John answered,
"No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven.
28 You yourselves are my witnesses that I said,
'I am not the Messiah,
but I have been sent ahead of him.'

➢

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom.
The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him,
rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.
For this reason my joy has been fulfilled.
30 He must increase, but I must decrease."

The gospel of the Lord.

218 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – AFTER EPIPHANY

For the weekdays after Epiphany

These texts may be used in place of the texts proposed for each day.

Matthew 4.16
A people in darkness have seen a great light;
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

See Matthew 4.23
Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Luke 4.18
The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Luke 7.16
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

See 1 Timothy 3.16
Glory to Christ who is proclaimed to the world:
glory from all who believe in him!

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR

WEEKDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR I

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

305 MONDAY

When the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday of the First Week of Ordinary Time, the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read.

FIRST READING

Hebrews 1.1-6

In these last days God has spoken to us by his Son.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors
in many and various ways by the prophets,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
through whom he also created the worlds.

3 He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.
When he had made purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
4 having become as much superior to angels
as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?
Or again,
"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?
6 And again,
when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 97.1-2, 6+7ac, 8bc-9 (R.7b)

R. Worship the Lord, all angels of God.

1 The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
2 Cloud and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. ***R.***

6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.
7 All worshippers of images are put to shame.
All gods bow down before him. ***R.***

8 The towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.
9 For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 1.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The kingdom of God is near:
repent and believe the good news.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.14-20

Repent and believe in the good news.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 Now after John was arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news
15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news."

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea,
for they were fishermen.
17 And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you fishers of people."
18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

19 As he went a little farther,
he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
who were in their boat mending the nets.
20 Immediately he called them;
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men,
and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

306 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 2.5-12

The author of Salvation is made perfect through suffering.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

5 God did not subject the coming world,
about which we are speaking, to angels.
6 But someone has testified somewhere,
“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?
7 You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honour,
8 subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them,
God left nothing outside their control.
As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them,
9 but we do see Jesus,
who for a little while was made lower than the angels,
now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death,
so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 It was fitting that God,
for whom and through whom all things exist,
in bringing many children to glory,
should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified
all have one Father.
For this reason
12 Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 8.1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-8 (R.6)++

R. You gave your Son authority over all your creation.

1 O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
2 You have set your glory
above the heavens. ***R.***

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
4 What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them? ***R.***

5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
6 You have given them dominion
over the works of your hands. ***R.***

You have put all things under their feet,
7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Thessalonians 2.13

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Receive this message not as human words,
but as truly the word of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.21-28

His was a new teaching with authority.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

21 Jesus and the disciples went to Capernaum;
and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.
22 The people were astounded at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,
24 and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying,
“Be silent, and come out of him!”
26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice,
came out of him.

➢

27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another,
"What is this? A new teaching—with authority!
He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

28 At once Jesus' fame began to spread
throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

307 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 2.14-18

He was made like all the brothers and sisters so that he might be compassionate.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

14 Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same things,
so that through death
he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil,
15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death.

16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels,
but the descendants of Abraham.
17 Therefore he had to become
like his brothers and sisters in every respect,
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
in the service of God,
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105.1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 (R.8)

R. The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times.)

1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works. ***R.***

3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually. ***R.***

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
7 He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth. ***R.***

8 He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
9 the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord:
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.29-39

Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

29 As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue,
they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever,
and they told him about her at once.
31 Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up.
Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sundown,
they brought to Jesus all who were sick or possessed with demons.
33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. ➢

34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and cast out many demons;
and he would not permit the demons to speak,
because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark,
Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.
36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him.
37 When they found him, they said to him,
"Everyone is searching for you."

38 Jesus answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns,
so that I may proclaim the message there also;
for that is what I came out to do."
39 And Jesus went throughout Galilee,
proclaiming the message in their synagogues
and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

308 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 3.7-14

Encourage one another every day.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

7 The Holy Spirit says,
"Today, if you hear his voice,
8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
as on the day of testing in the wilderness,
9 where your ancestors put me to the test,
though they had seen my works for forty years.
10 Therefore I was angry with that generation,
and I said, 'They always go astray in their hearts,
and they have not known my ways.'
11 As in my anger I swore,
'They will not enter my rest.'"

12 Take care, brothers and sisters,
that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart
that turns away from the living God.
13 But exhort one another every day,
as long as it is called "today,"
so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partners of Christ,
if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95.6-7, 8-9, 10-11 (R.7b-8a)

R. If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. ***R.***

O that today you would listen to his voice!
8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. ***R.***

10 For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways."
11 Therefore in my anger I swore,
"They shall not enter my rest." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.40-45

The man with leprosy was made clean.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

40 A man with leprosy came to Jesus begging him,
and kneeling he said to him,
"If you choose, you can make me clean."
41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him,
and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!"
42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ➢

43 After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,
44 saying to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone;
but go, show yourself to the priest,
and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded,
as a testimony to them.”

45 But the man went out and began to proclaim it freely,
and to spread the word,
so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly,
but stayed out in the country;
and people came to him from every quarter.

The gospel of the Lord.

309 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 4.1-5, 11

Let us make every effort to enter that place of rest.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved:
1 While the promise of entering God’s rest is still open,
let us take care that none of you
should seem to have failed to reach it.
2 For indeed the good news came to us just as to them;
but the message they heard did not benefit them,
because they were not united by faith with those who listened.

3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,
“As in my anger I swore,
‘They shall not enter my rest,’”
though his works were finished at the foundation of the world.
4 For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows,
“And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.”
5 And again in this place it says,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

11 Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest,
so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 78.3+4bc, 6c-7, 8 (R.7b)

R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

3 The things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
4 We will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might. ***R.***

6 The next generation shall rise up and tell them to their children,
7 so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments. ***R.***

8 So that they should not be like their ancestors,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 7.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.1-12

The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,
it was reported that he was at home.
2 So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them,
not even in front of the door;
and he was speaking the word to them.

3 Then some people came,
bringing to him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four of them.
4 And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd,
they removed the roof above him;
and after having dug through it,
they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man who was paralyzed,
"Son, your sins are forgiven."
6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there,
questioning in their hearts,

7 "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy!
Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

➢

8 At once Jesus perceived in his spirit
that they were discussing these questions among themselves;
and he said to them,
"Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?
9 Which is easier,
to say to the one who was paralyzed, 'Your sins are forgiven,'
or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?
10 But so that you may know
that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"
—he said to the man who was paralyzed—
11 "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home."

12 And the man stood up, and immediately took the mat
and went out before all of them;
so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,
"We have never seen anything like this!"

The gospel of the Lord.

310 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 4.12-16

Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

12 The word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit,
joints from marrow;
it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And before him no creature is hidden,
but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one
to whom we must render an account.

14 Since, then, we have a great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God,
let us hold fast to our confession.
15 For we do not have
a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,
but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are,
yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 14 (R. Jn 6.63c)

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

14 Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.13-17

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 Jesus went out beside the sea;
the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.
14 As he was walking along,
he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth,
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.

15 And as Jesus sat at dinner in Levi's house,
many tax collectors and sinners
were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples,
for there were many who followed him.

16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw
that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors,
they said to his disciples,
"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 When Jesus heard this, he said to them,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick do;
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

The gospel of the Lord.

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

311 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 5.1-10

Although he was the Son of God,
he learned obedience through what he suffered.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

1 Every high priest chosen from among mortals
is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
2 He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward,
since he himself is subject to weakness;
3 and because of this
he must offer sacrifice for his own sins
as well as for those of the people.

4 And one does not presume to take this honour,
but takes it only when called by God,
just as Aaron was.
5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest,
but was appointed by the one who said to him,
"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
6 as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

7 In the days of his flesh,
Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears,
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
8 Although he was a Son,
he learned obedience through what he suffered;
9 and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,
10 having been designated by God
a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 110.1, 2, 3, 4 (R.4b)

R. You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.

1 The Lord says to my lord,
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool." ***R.***

2 The Lord sends out from Zion
your mighty sceptre.
Rule in the midst of your foes. ***R.***

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly
on the day you lead your forces on the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning, like dew,
your youth will come to you. ***R.***

4 The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 4.12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The word of God is alive and active;
it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.18-22

The bridegroom is with them.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

18 John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting;
and people came and said to Jesus,
"Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast,
but your disciples do not fast?"

19 Jesus said to them,
"The wedding guests cannot fast
while the bridegroom is with them, can they?
As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.
20 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
and then they will fast on that day.

21 "No one sews a piece of unshrunken cloth on an old cloak;
otherwise, the patch pulls away from it,
the new from the old,
and a worse tear is made.

22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins;
otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,
and the wine is lost,
and so are the skins;
but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

The gospel of the Lord.

312 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 6.10-20

We have this hope, a safe and sure anchor of the soul.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters,
10 God is not unjust;
he will not overlook your work
and the love that you showed for his sake
in serving the saints, as you still do.
11 And we want each one of you to show the same diligence
so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end,
12 so that you may not become sluggish,
but imitators of those who through faith and patience
inherit the promises.

13 When God made a promise to Abraham,
because he had no one greater by whom to swear,
he swore by himself,
14 saying, "I will surely bless you and multiply you."
15 And thus Abraham, having patiently endured,
obtained the promise.

16 Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves,
and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute.
17 In the same way,
when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise
the unchangeable character of his purpose,
he guaranteed it by an oath,
18 so that through two unchangeable things,
in which it is impossible that God would prove false,
we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged
to seize the hope set before us. ➢

19 We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,
a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain,
20 where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered,
having become a high priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 111.1-2, 4-5, 9+10c (R.5)

R. God is ever mindful of his covenant.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times.)

1 I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
2 Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. ***R.***

4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant. ***R.***

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
10 His praise endures forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 1.17-18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we were called.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.23-28

The sabbath was made for people. and not people for the sabbath.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

23 One sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through the grainfields;
and as they made their way
his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.
24 The Pharisees said to him,
“Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?”

25 And Jesus said to them,
"Have you never read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food?
26 He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest,
and ate the bread of the Presence,
which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat,
and he gave some to his companions."
27 Then Jesus said to them,
"The sabbath was made for people,
and not people for the sabbath;
28 so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

The gospel of the Lord.

313 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 7.1-3, 15-17

You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

1 "King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God,
met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings
and blessed him";
2 and to him Abraham apportioned "one-tenth of everything."
His name, in the first place, means "king of righteousness";
next he is also king of Salem,
that is, "king of peace."
3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy,
having neither beginning of days nor end of life,
but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.
15 It is even more obvious when another priest arises,
resembling Melchizedek,
16 one who has become a priest,
not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent,
but through the power of an indestructible life.
17 For it is attested of him,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 110.1, 2, 3, 4 (R.4)

R. You are a priest forever
in the line of Melchizedek.

1 The Lord says to my lord,
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool." ***R.***

2 The Lord sends out from Zion
your mighty sceptre.
Rule in the midst of your foes. ***R.***

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly
on the day you lead your forces
on the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning, like dew,
your youth will come to you. ***R.***

4 The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the Good News to the people
and healed the ones who were sick.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.1-6

Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus entered the synagogue,
and a man was there who had a withered hand.
2 The Pharisees watched Jesus
to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath,
so that they might accuse him.

3 And Jesus said to the man who had the withered hand,
"Come forward."
4 Then he said to the Pharasees,
"Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath,
to save life or to kill?"
But they were silent.

5 Jesus looked around at them with anger;
he was grieved at their hardness of heart
and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."
He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

6 The Pharisees went out
and immediately conspired with the Herodians against Jesus,
how to destroy him.

The gospel of the Lord.

314 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 7.25 - 8.6

Jesus offered sacrifices once for all when he offered himself.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

25 Jesus, because he continues forever,
is able for all time
to save those who approach God through him,
since he always lives to make intercession for them.

26 For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest,
holy, blameless, undefiled,
separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
27 Unlike the other high priests,
he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day,
first for his own sins, and then for those of the people;
this he did once for all when he offered himself.
28 For the law appoints as high priests
those who are subject to weakness,
but the word of the oath, which came later than the law,
appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

1 Now the main point in what we are saying is this:
we have such a high priest,
one who is seated at the right hand
of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,
2 a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent
that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices;
hence it is necessary for this priest
also to have something to offer.
4 Now if he were on earth,
he would not be a priest at all,
since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ➢

5 They offer worship in a sanctuary
that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one;
for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent,
was warned,
"See that you make everything according to the pattern
that was shown you on the mountain."

6 But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry,
and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant,
which has been enacted through better promises.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.6-7a, 7b-8, 9, 16 (R.7-8)

R. Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
7 Then I said, "Here I am." ***R.***

"In the scroll of the book
it is written of me,
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

16 But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the Lord!" ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Timothy 1.10b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ destroyed death;
and brought life immortal through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.7-12

The unclean spirits shouted: "You are the Son of God." Jesus ordered them not to make him known.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea,
and a great multitude from Galilee followed him;
8 hearing all that he was doing,
they came to him in great numbers
from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan,
and the region around Tyre and Sidon.

9 Jesus told his disciples to have a boat ready for him
because of the crowd,
so that they would not crush him;
10 for he had cured many,
so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him.

11 Whenever the unclean spirits saw Jesus,
they fell down before him and shouted,
"You are the Son of God!"
12 But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

315 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 8.6-13

Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

6 Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry
than the priests who offer gifts according to the Law;
and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant,
which has been enacted through better promises.
7 For if that first covenant had been faultless,
there would have been no need to look for a second one.
8 God finds fault with them when he says:

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant
with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;
9 not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors,
on the day when I took them by the hand

➢

to lead them out of the land of Egypt;
for they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord.

10 "This is the covenant
that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their minds,
and write them on their hearts,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

11 "And they shall not teach one another
or say to each other,
'Know the Lord,'
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.
12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more."

13 In speaking of "a new covenant,"
he has made the first one obsolete.
And what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85.7+9, 10-11, 12-13 (R.11)

R. Kindness and truth shall meet.

7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. ***R.***

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky. ***R.***

12 The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 5.19

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.13-19

Jesus called the ones he wanted to be with him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 Jesus went up the mountain
and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him.
14 And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles,
to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message,
15 and to have authority to cast out demons.

16 So Jesus appointed the twelve:
Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);
17 James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James
(to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder);
18 and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew,
and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus,
and Simon the Zealot,
19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

316 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 9.2-3, 11-14

Christ entered once for all into the holy place with his own blood.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

2 The first covenant had an earthly sanctuary.
For a tent was constructed,
in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence;
this is called the Holy Place.
3 Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. ➢

11 But when Christ came
as a high priest of the good things that have come,
then through the greater and perfect tent
(not made with hands, that is, not of this creation),
12 he entered once for all into the Holy Place,
not with the blood of goats and calves,
but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls,
with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer,
sanctifies those who have been defiled
so that their flesh is purified,
14 how much more will the blood of Christ,
who through the eternal Spirit
offered himself without blemish to God,
purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47.1-2, 5-6, 7-8 (R.5)

R. God ascends with songs of joy,
the sound of trumpets greets the Lord.

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth. ***R.***

5 God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises. ***R.***

7 For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.
8 God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Acts 16.14b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen eagerly to the words of your Son.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.20-21

People were saying of Jesus: "He has lost his mind."

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and the disciples went home;
20 and the crowd came together again,
so that they could not even eat.

21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him,
for people were saying,
"He has gone out of his mind."

The gospel of the Lord.

Some may prefer to read the gospel in no. 255 or 325.

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

317 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 9.15, 24-28

Christ, who appeared once to bear the sins of many,
will appear a second time to save those eagerly waiting for him.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

15 Christ offered himself without blemish to God.
For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant,
so that those who are called
may receive the promised eternal inheritance,
because a death has occurred
that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands,
a mere copy of the true one,
but he entered into heaven itself,
now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.
25 Nor was it to offer himself again and again,
as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year
with blood that is not his own;
26 for then he would have had to suffer again and again
since the foundation of the world.

But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age
to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.
27 And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once,
and after that the judgment,
28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,
will appear a second time, not to deal with sin,
but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6 (R.1a)

R. Sing to the Lord a new song,
for the Lord has done marvellous things.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Timothy 1.10b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.22-30

Satan's end has come.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

22 Some scribes who came down from Jerusalem said of Jesus,
"He has Beelzebul,
and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

23 And Jesus called them to him, and spoke to them in parables,
"How can Satan cast out Satan?
24 If a kingdom is divided against itself,
that kingdom cannot stand.
25 And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand, but his end has come.

➢

27 But no one can enter a strong man's house
and plunder his property
without first tying up the strong man;
then indeed the house can be plundered.

28 "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins
and whatever blasphemies they utter;
29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit
can never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an eternal sin."
30 For the scribes had said, "Jesus has an unclean spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.

318 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 10.1-10

I have come to do your will, O God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

10 Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come
and not the true form of these realities,
it can never, by the same sacrifices
that are continually offered year after year,
make perfect those who approach.
2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered,
since the worshippers, cleansed once for all,
would no longer have any consciousness of sin?
3 But in these sacrifices
there is a reminder of sin year after year.
4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
7 Then I said,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book,
'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God.'"

8 When he said above,
“You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings
and burnt offerings and sin offerings”
(these are offered according to the law),
9 then he added,
“See, I have come to do your will.”
He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

10 And it is by God’s will
that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.1+3ab, 6-7a, 9, 10 (R.7a+8a)

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God. ***R.***

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
7 Then I said, “Here I am.” ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of the ruler of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.31-35

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

31 The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to the house where he was
and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.
32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him,
"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."
33 And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"
34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers!
35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The gospel of the Lord.

319 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 10.11-18

Christ has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

In the former alliance,
11 every priest stands day after day at his service,
offering again and again the same sacrifices
that can never take away sins.
12 But when Christ
had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,
"he sat down at the right hand of God,"
13 and since then has been waiting
"until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet."

14 For by a single offering
he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.
15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us,
for after saying,
16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,"

17 he also adds,
"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
18 Where there is forgiveness of these,
there is no longer any offering for sin.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 110.1, 2, 3, 4 (R.4)

R. You are a priest for ever,
in the line of Melchizedek.

1 The Lord says to my lord,
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool." ***R.***

2 The Lord sends out from Zion
your mighty sceptre.
Rule in the midst of your foes. ***R.***

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly
on the day you lead your forces
on the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning,
like dew, your youth will come to you. ***R.***

4 The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.1-20

A sower went out to sow.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus began to teach beside the sea.
Such a very large crowd gathered around him
that he got into a boat on the water and sat there,
while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.
2 He began to teach them many things in parables,
and in his teaching he said to them:

➢

3 “Listen! A sower went out to sow.
4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,
and the birds came and ate it up.
5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil,
and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil.
6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched;
and since it had no root, it withered away.

7 “Other seed fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked it,
and it yielded no grain.
8 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain,
growing up and increasing
and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”
9 And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

10 When Jesus was alone,
those who were around him along with the twelve
asked him about the parables.
11 And he said to them,
“To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God,
but for those outside, everything comes in parables;
12 in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive,
and may indeed listen, but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’”

13 And Jesus said to them,
“Do you not understand this parable?
Then how will you understand all the parables?

14 “The sower sows the word.
15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown:
when they hear, Satan immediately comes
and takes away the word that is sown in them.
16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground:
when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy.
17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while;
then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word,
immediately they fall away.

18 “And others are those sown among the thorns:
these are the ones who hear the word,
19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth,
and the desire for other things come in and choke the word,
and it yields nothing.

20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil:
they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit,
thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

The gospel of the Lord.

320 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 10.19-25

With unwavering faith, let us hold fast in hope, and affirm each other in love.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

19 My friends,
since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary
by the blood of Jesus,
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us
through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,
for he who has promised is faithful.
24 And let us consider
how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24.1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 (R.6)

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
2 for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers. ***R.***

3 Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
4 Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false. ***R.***

5 They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
6 Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 119.105

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.21-25

A lamp is to be placed on a lampstand.
The measure you give will be the measure you get.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

21 Jesus told this parable to the disciples,
"Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket,
or under the bed, and not on the lampstand?
22 For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed;
nor is anything secret, except to come to light.
23 Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

24 And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear;
the measure you give will be the measure you get,
and still more will be given you.
25 For to those who have, more will be given;
and from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away."

The gospel of the Lord.

321 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 10.32-39

Do not abandon confidence, it brings a great reward.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved,
32 recall those earlier days
when, after you had been enlightened,
you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,
33 sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution,
and sometimes being partners with those so treated.
34 For you had compassion for those who were in prison,
and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions,
knowing that you yourselves possessed something better
and more lasting.

35 Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours;
it brings a great reward.
36 For you need endurance,
so that when you have done the will of God,
you may receive what was promised.

37 For yet "in a very little while,
the one who is coming will come and will not delay;
38 but my righteous one will live by faith.
My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back."

39 But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost,
but among those who have faith and so are saved.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 37.3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 (R.39a)

R. The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***R.***

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ***R.***

23 Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
when he delights in our way;
24 though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand. ***R.***

39 The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
40 The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little one the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.26-34

Someone scatters seed on the ground
and it grows even while the sower is asleep.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

26 Jesus told the people a parable,
"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,
27 and would sleep and rise night and day,
and the seed would sprout and grow,
without the sower knowing how.
28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk,
then the head, then the full grain in the head.
29 But when the grain is ripe,
at once he goes in with his sickle,
because the harvest has come."

30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God,
or what parable will we use for it?
31 It is like a mustard seed,
which, when sown upon the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;
32 yet when it is sown it grows up
and becomes the greatest of all shrubs,
and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them,
as they were able to hear it;
34 he did not speak to them except in parables,
but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

322 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 11.1-2, 8-19

They looked forward to the city God would build for them.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

11 Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called
to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance;
and he set out, not knowing where he was going.
9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised,
as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob,
who were heirs with him of the same promise.
10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself, though barren,
received power to conceive, even when she was too old,
because she considered God faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one person,
and this one as good as dead,
descendants were born,
"as many as the stars of heaven
and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises,
but from a distance they saw and greeted them.
They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,
14 for people who speak in this way
make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ➢

15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind,
they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country,
that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God;
indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when put to the test,
offered up Isaac.
He who had received the promises
was ready to offer up his only son,
18 of whom he had been told,
"It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you."
19 Abraham considered the fact
that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—
and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Luke 1.69-70, 71-72, 73-75 (R.68)

R. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to his people.

69 The Lord has raised up a mighty saviour for us
in the house of his servant David,
70 as he spoke through the mouth
of his holy prophets from of old. ***R.***

71 That we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.
72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant. ***R.***

73 The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
74 to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.35-41

Who is this, that the wind and the sea obey him?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

All day long, Jesus had spoken to the crowd in parables.
35 When evening had come,
Jesus said to the disciples,
"Let us go across to the other side."
36 And leaving the crowd behind,
they took him with them in the boat, just as he was.
Other boats were with him.

37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat,
so that the boat was already being swamped.
38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;
and they woke him up and said to him,
"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
39 Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind,
and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"
Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid?
Have you still no faith?"
41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,
"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The gospel of the Lord.

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

323 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 11.32-40

Through faith our ancestors conquered kingdoms.
God has provided something better for us.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Concerning the great power of faith,
32 what more should I say?
For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah,
of David and Samuel and the prophets—
33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice,
obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,
34 quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword,
won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war,
put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead by resurrection.
Others were tortured, refusing to accept release,
in order to obtain a better resurrection.
36 Others suffered mocking and flogging,
and even chains and imprisonment.
37 They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two,
they were killed by the sword;
they went about in skins of sheep and goats,
destitute, persecuted, tormented—
38 of whom the world was not worthy.
They wandered in deserts and mountains,
and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith,
did not receive what was promised,
40 since God had provided something better
so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.19, 20, 21, 22, 23 (R.24)

R. Let your hearts take comfort,
all who hope in the Lord.

19 How abundant is your goodness
that you have laid up for those who fear you,
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of everyone! ***R.***

20 In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from human plots;
you hold them safe under your shelter
from contentious tongues. ***R.***

21 Blessed be the Lord,
for he has wondrously shown
his steadfast love to me
when I was beset as a city under siege. ***R.***

22 I had said in my alarm,
"I am driven far from your sight."
But you heard my supplications
when I cried out to you for help. ***R.***

23 Love the Lord, all you his saints.
The Lord preserves the faithful,
but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 7.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

GOSPEL

Mark 5.1-20

Come out of him, you unclean spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus and the disciples came to the other side of the sea,
to the country of the Gerasenes.
2 And when he had stepped out of the boat,
immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him.
3 He lived among the tombs;
and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain;
4 for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains,
but the chains he wrenched apart,
and the shackles he broke in pieces;
and no one had the strength to subdue him. ➢

5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains
he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance,
he ran and bowed down before him;
7 and he shouted at the top of his voice,
"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?
I adjure you by God, do not torment me."
8 For he had said to him,
"Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"
9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"
He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many."
10 He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

11 Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding;
12 and the unclean spirits begged him,
"Send us into the swine; let us enter them."
13 So he gave them permission.
And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine;
and the herd, numbering about two thousand,
rushed down the steep bank into the sea,
and were drowned in the water.

14 The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country.
Then people came to see what it was that had happened.
15 They came to Jesus
and saw the demoniac sitting there,
clothed and in his right mind,
the very man who had had the legion;
and they were afraid.
16 Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac
and to the swine reported it.

17 Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighbourhood.
18 As he was getting into the boat,
the man who had been possessed by demons
begged him that he might be with him.
19 But Jesus refused, and said to him,
"Go home to your friends,
and tell them how much the Lord has done for you,
and what mercy he has shown you."
20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis
how much Jesus had done for him;
and everyone was amazed.

The gospel of the Lord.

324 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 12.1-4

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved:
12 Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight
and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross,
disregarding its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider Jesus who endured such hostility against himself from sinners,
so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.
4 In your struggle against sin
you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 22.25b-26, 27+29, 30-31 (R.26b)

R. They will praise you, Lord, who long for you.

25 My vows I will pay before those who fear the Lord.
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever! ***R.***

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
29 To the Lord, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for the Lord. ***R.***

30 Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that the Lord has done it. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Matthew 8.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Christ bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.

GOSPEL
Mark 5.21-43

Young woman, I say to you, get up.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

21 When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side,
a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea.
22 Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came
and, when he saw him, fell at his feet
23 and begged him repeatedly,
"My little daughter is at the point of death.
Come and lay your hands on her,
so that she may be made well, and live."
24 So Jesus went with him.
And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

25 Now there was a woman
who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years.
26 She had endured much under many physicians,
and had spent all that she had;
and she was no better, but rather grew worse.
27 She had heard about Jesus,
and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
28 for she said,
"If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."
29 Immediately her haemorrhage stopped;
and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him,
Jesus turned about in the crowd and said,
"Who touched my clothes?"
31 And his disciples said to him,
"You see the crowd pressing in on you;
how can you say, 'Who touched me?'"
32 He looked all around to see who had done it.
33 But the woman,
knowing what had happened to her,
came in fear and trembling,
fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well;
go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

35 While Jesus was still speaking,
some people came from the leader’s house to say,
“Your daughter is dead.
Why trouble the teacher any further?”
36 But overhearing what they said,
Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,
“Do not fear, only believe.”
37 He allowed no one to follow him
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.
38 When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue,
Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.
39 When he had entered, he said to them,
“Why do you make a commotion and weep?
The child is not dead but sleeping.”
40 And they laughed at him.

Then he put them all outside,
and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him,
and went in where the child was.
41 He took her by the hand and said to her,
“Talitha cum,”
which means, “Little girl, get up!”
42 And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about
(she was twelve years of age).
At this they were overcome with amazement.
43 Jesus strictly ordered them that no one should know this,
and told them to give her something to eat.

The gospel of the Lord.

325 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 12.4-7, 11-15

The Lord disciplines the ones he loves.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved,
4 in your struggle against sin
you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
5 And you have forgotten the exhortation
that addresses you as children—
“My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
or lose heart when you are punished by him;
6 for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves,
and chastises every child whom he accepts.”

7 Endure trials for the sake of discipline.
God is treating you as children;
for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline?
11 Now, discipline always seems painful
rather than pleasant at the time,
but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness
to those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands
and strengthen your weak knees,
13 and make straight paths for your feet,
so that what is lame may not be put out of joint,
but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with everyone,
and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God;
that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble,
and through it many become defiled.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 13-14, 17-18a (R. see 17)

R. The Lord's kindness is everlasting
to those who fear him.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust. ***R.***

17 But the steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.1-6

Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus came to his hometown,
and his disciples followed him.
2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded.
They said, "Where did this man get all this?
What is this wisdom that has been given to him?
What deeds of power are being done by his hands!
3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,
and are not his sisters here with us?"
And they took offense at him.

4 Then Jesus said to them,
"Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown,
and among their own kin, and in their own house." ➢

5 And he could do no deed of power there,
except that he laid his hands on a few sick people
and cured them.
6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then Jesus went about among the villages teaching.

The gospel of the Lord.

326 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 12.18-19, 21-24

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved,
unlike those at Mount Sinai,
18 you have not come to something that can be touched,
a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest,
19 and the sound of a trumpet,
and a voice whose words made the hearers beg
that not another word be spoken to them.
21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight
that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”

22 But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enroled in heaven,
and to God the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood
that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 48.1-2a, 2b-3, 8, 9-10 (R.9)

R. God, in your temple, we ponder your love.

1 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.
2 His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth. ***R.***

Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.
3 Within its citadels
God has shown himself a sure defense. ***R.***

8 As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes forever. ***R.***

9 We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
10 Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.
Your right hand is filled with victory. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 1.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The kingdom of God is near:
repent and believe the good news!

GOSPEL

Mark 6.7-13

Jesus began to send the twelve out two by two.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

7 Jesus called the twelve
and began to send them out two by two,
and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.
8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff;
no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;
9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house,
stay there until you leave the place.
11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you,
as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet
as a testimony against them."

➢

12 So the twelve went out and proclaimed that all should repent.
13 They cast out many demons,
and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The gospel of the Lord.

327 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 13.1-8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved,
1 let mutual love continue.
2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.
3 Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were in prison with them;
those who are being tortured,
as though you yourselves were being tortured.
4 Let marriage be held in honour by all,
and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled;
for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money,
and be content with what you have;
for God has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."
6 So we can say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

7 Remember your leaders,
those who spoke the word of God to you;
consider the outcome of their way of life,
and imitate their faith.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27.1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc (R.1a)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? ***R.***

3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident. ***R.***

5 For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock. ***R.***

8 Your face, Lord, do I seek.
9 Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Luke 8.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.14-29

John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 King Herod heard of the miracles of Jesus,
for Jesus' name had become known.
Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead;
and for this reason these powers are at work in him."
15 But others said, "It is Elijah."
And others said, "It is a prophet,
like one of the prophets of old."
16 But when Herod heard of it, he said,
"John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John,
bound him, and put him in prison
on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,
because Herod had married her. ➢

18 For John had been telling Herod,
“It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”
19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him.
But she could not,
20 for Herod feared John,
knowing that he was a righteous and holy man,
and he protected him.
When Herod heard John, he was greatly perplexed;
and yet he liked to listen to him.

21 But an opportunity came
when Herod on his birthday
gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers
and for the leaders of Galilee.
22 When the daughter of Herodias herself came in,
she pleased Herod and his guests;
and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish,
and I will give it.”
23 And he solemnly swore to her,
“Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.”

24 She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?”
She replied, “The head of John the Baptist.”
25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested,
“I want you to give me at once
the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

26 The king was deeply grieved;
yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests,
he did not want to refuse her.
27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard
with orders to bring John’s head.
He went and beheaded him in the prison,
28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl.
Then the girl gave it to her mother.
29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body,
and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.

328 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 13.15-17, 20-21

May the God of peace, who brought back from the dead the great shepherd, make you complete in everything good.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

15 Through Jesus Christ,
let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God,
that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.
16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them,
for they are keeping watch over your souls
and will give an account.
Let them do this with joy and not with sighing—
for that would be harmful to you.

20 Now may the God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
21 make you complete in everything good
so that you may do his will,
working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.30-34

***Jesus had compassion on the crowd
for they were like sheep without a shepherd.***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After returning from their first mission,
30 the apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.
31 He said to them,
"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."
For many were coming and going,
and they had no leisure even to eat.
32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

33 Now many saw them going and recognized them,
and they hurried there on foot from all the towns
and arrived ahead of them.
34 As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.

The gospel of the Lord.

FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

329 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 1.1-19

God said it, and it was so, and it was good.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 In the beginning
when God created the heavens and the earth,
2 the earth was a formless void
and darkness covered the face of the deep,
while the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.
3 Then God said,
“Let there be light”;
and there was light.
4 And God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the darkness.
5 God called the light “Day,”
and the darkness he called “Night.”
And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said,
“Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters,
and let it separate the waters from the waters.”
7 So God made the dome
and separated the waters that were under the dome
from the waters that were above the dome.
And it was so.
8 God called the dome “Sky.”
And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said,
“Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place,
and let the dry land appear.”
And it was so.
10 God called the dry land “Earth,”
and the waters that were gathered together he called “Seas.”
And God saw that it was good.

➢

11 Then God said,
"Let the earth put forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed,
and fruit trees of every kind on earth
that bear fruit with the seed in it."
And it was so.
12 The earth brought forth vegetation:
plants yielding seed of every kind,
and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.
And God saw that it was good.
13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said,
"Let there be lights in the dome of the sky
to separate the day from the night;
and let them be for signs and for seasons
and for days and years,
15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky
to give light upon the earth."
And it was so.

16 God made the two great lights—
the greater light to rule the day
and the lesser light to rule the night—
and the stars.
17 God set them in the dome of the sky
to give light upon the earth,
18 to rule over the day and over the night,
and to separate the light from the darkness.
And God saw that it was good.
19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104.1-2a, 5-6, 10+12, 24+35c (R.31b)

R. May the Lord be glad in his works.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
2 wrapped in light as with a garment. ***R.***

5 You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
6 You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains. ***R.***

10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills.
12 By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches. ***R.***

24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
35 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.53-56

All who touched Jesus' cloak were healed.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

53 Jesus and the disciples crossed over the lake
and came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.
54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him,
55 and rushed about that whole region
and began to bring the sick on mats
to wherever they heard Jesus was.
56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms,
they laid the sick in the marketplaces,
and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak;
and all who touched it were healed.

The gospel of the Lord.

330 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 1.20-2.4a

Let us make human beings in our image, according to our likeness.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 In the beginning
when God created the heavens and the earth,
20 God said,
"Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."
21 So God created the great sea monsters
and every living creature that moves, of every kind,
with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind.
And God saw that it was good.
22 God blessed them, saying,
"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas,
and let birds multiply on the earth."
23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said,
"Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind:
cattle and creeping things
and wild animals of the earth of every kind."
And it was so.
25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind,
and the cattle of every kind,
and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.
And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said,
"Let us make human beings in our image, according to our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air,
and over the cattle,
and over all the wild animals of the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
27 So God created human beings in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;

and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

29 God said,
"See, I have given you every plant yielding seed
that is upon the face of all the earth,
and every tree with seed in its fruit;
you shall have them for food.
30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air,
and to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has the breath of life,
I have given every green plant for food."
And it was so.

31 God saw everything that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,
and all their multitude.
2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done,
and he rested on the seventh day
from all the work that he had done.
3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested
from all the work that he had done in creation.
4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth
when they were created.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 8.3-4, 5-6, 7-8, (R.1a)

R. O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them? ***R.***

5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet. ***R.***

7 All sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Psalm 119.36a, 29b**

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Turn my heart to do your will;
teach me your law, O God.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.1-13

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 When the Pharisees and some of the scribes
who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,
2 they noticed that some of his disciples
were eating with defiled hands,
that is, without washing them.
3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews,
do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,
thus observing the tradition of the elders;
4 and when they come from the marketplace,
they do not eat unless they purify themselves
and there are also many other traditions that they observe,
the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus,
"Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders,
but eat with defiled hands?"
6 Jesus said to them,
"Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
'This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'
8 You abandon the commandment of God
and hold to human tradition."

9 Then Jesus said to them,
"You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God
in order to keep your tradition!
10 For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and,
'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.'

11

But you say that if anyone tells father or mother,
‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’
(that is, an offering to God)—
12 then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother,
13 thus making void the word of God through your tradition
that you have handed on.
And you do many things like this.”

The gospel of the Lord.

331 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-17

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

4 In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,
5 when no plant of the field was yet in the earth
and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—
for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth,
and there was no one to till the ground;
6 but a stream would rise from the earth,
and water the whole face of the ground—
7 then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the earth,
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;
and the man became a living being.

8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east;
and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree
that is pleasant to the sight and good for food,
the tree of life also in the midst of the garden,
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

15 The Lord God took the man
and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
16 And the Lord God commanded the man,
“You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
you shall not eat,
for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104.1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 (R.1a)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,
2 wrapped in light as with a garment. ***R.***

27 All living creatures look to you
to give them their food in due season;
28 when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. ***R.***

29 When you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 17.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.14-23

It is what comes out of a person's mouth that defiles.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 Jesus called the crowd and said to them,
"Listen to me, all of you, and understand:
15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile,
but the things that come out are what defile."
16 "Let anyone with ears to hear, listen."

17 When Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house,
his disciples asked him about the parable.
18 He said to them, "Then do you also fail to understand?
Do you not see
that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile,
19 since it enters, not the heart but the stomach,
and goes out into the sewer?"
(Thus Jesus declared all foods clean.)

20 And he said,
"It is what comes out of a person that defiles.

21 For it is from within,
from the human heart, that evil intentions come:
fornication, theft, murder,
22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.
23 All these evil things come from within,
and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord.

332 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 2.18-25

The Lord God brought the woman to the man, and they become one flesh.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God had created the man and put him in the garden.
18 Then the Lord God said,
"It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper as his partner."
19 So out of the earth
the Lord God formed every animal of the field
and every bird of the air,
and brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
and whatever the man called every living creature,
that was its name.
20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air,
and to every animal of the field;
but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,
and he slept;
then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man
he made into a woman
and brought her to the man.
23 Then the man said,
"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

➢

24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother
and clings to his wife,
and they become one flesh.
25 And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128.1-2, 3, 4-5 (R. see 1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1 Happy is the one who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. ***R.***

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table. ***R.***

4 Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
5 The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1.21

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Receive and submit to the word planted in you;
it can save your souls.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.24-30

Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

24 Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.
Yet he could not escape notice,
25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit
immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.
26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin.
She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

27 Jesus said to her, "Let the children be fed first,
for it is not fair to take the children's food
and throw it to the dogs."

28

But she answered him,
"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."
29 Then he said to her,
"For saying that, you may go—
the demon has left your daughter."
30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed,
and the demon gone.

The gospel of the Lord.

333 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 3.1-8

You will be like God knowing good and evil.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 The serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal
that the Lord God had made.
He said to the woman,
"Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"
2 The woman said to the serpent,
"We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree
that is in the middle of the garden,
nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die;
5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,
and that it was a delight to the eyes,
and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise,
she took of its fruit and ate;
and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her,
and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both were opened,
and they knew that they were naked;
and they sewed fig leaves together
and made loincloths for themselves.

➢

8

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden
at the time of the evening breeze,
and the man and his wife hid themselves
from the presence of the Lord God
among the trees of the garden.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32.1-2, 5, 6, 7 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ***R.***

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. ***R.***

6 Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ***R.***

7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me
with glad cries of deliverance. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Acts 16.14b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.31-37

Jesus made those who are deaf to hear and those who are mute to speak.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

31 Jesus returned from the region of Tyre,
and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee,
in the region of the Decapolis.
32 They brought to him a man who was deaf
and who had an impediment in his speech;
and they begged him to lay his hand on him.
33 Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd,
and put his fingers into his ears,
and he spat and touched his tongue.

34 Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to the man,
“Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”
35 And immediately his ears were opened,
his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one;
but the more he ordered them,
the more zealously they proclaimed it.
37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying,
“He has done everything well;
he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The gospel of the Lord.

334 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 3.9-24

God sent the man and the woman forth
from the garden of Eden to till the earth.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After the man and the woman had sinned,
they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God.
9 The Lord God called to the man, and said to him,
“Where are you?”
10 The man said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden,
and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

➢

11

God said, “Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
12 The man said,
“The woman whom you gave to be with me,
she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman,
“What is this that you have done?”
The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

16 To the woman God said,
“I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”
17 And to the man he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the earth,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

20 The man named his wife Eve,
because she was the mother of all living.

21

And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife,
and clothed them.
22 Then the Lord God said,
“See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil;
and now, he might reach out his hand
and take also from the tree of life,
and eat, and live forever”—
23 therefore the Lord God sent him forth
from the garden of Eden,
to till the ground from which he was taken.

24 The Lord God drove out the man;
and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim,
and a sword flaming and turning
to guard the way to the tree of life.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 90.2, 3-4, 5-6, 12-13 (R.1)

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God. ***R.***

3 You turn us back to dust,
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night. ***R.***

5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers. ***R.***

12 So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
13 Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.4b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

No one lives by bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.1-10

The crowd ate and were filled.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 As there was a great crowd without anything to eat,
Jesus called his disciples and said to them,
2 "I have compassion for the crowd,
because they have been with me now for three days
and have nothing to eat.
3 If I send them away hungry to their homes,
they will faint on the way—
and some of them have come from a great distance."

4 His disciples replied,
"How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?"
5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"
They said, "Seven."

6 Then Jesus ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground;
and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks
he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute;
and they distributed them to the crowd.
7 They had also a few small fish;
and after blessing them,
he ordered that these too should be distributed.

8 The crowd ate and were filled;
and they took up the broken pieces left over,
seven baskets full.
9 Now there were about four thousand people.
And Jesus sent them away.
10 And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples
and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

The gospel of the Lord.

SIXTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

335 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 4.1-15, 25

Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 Now the man knew his wife Eve,
and she conceived and bore Cain,
saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord."
2 Next she bore his brother Abel.
Now Abel was a keeper of sheep,
and Cain a tiller of the ground.

3 In the course of time
Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground,
4 and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock,
their fat portions.
And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,
5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.
So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6 The Lord said to Cain,
"Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?
7 If you do well, will you not be accepted?
And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door;
its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8 Cain said to his brother Abel,
"Let us go out to the field."
And when they were in the field,
Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.
9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"
He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"
10 And the Lord said, "What have you done?
Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!
11 And now you are cursed from the ground,
which has opened its mouth
to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
12 When you till the ground,
it will no longer yield to you its strength;
you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ➢

13 Cain said to the Lord,
"My punishment is greater than I can bear!
14 Today you have driven me away from the soil,
and I shall be hidden from your face;
I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth,
and anyone who meets me may kill me."
15 Then the Lord said to him, "Not so!
Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance."
And the Lord put a mark on Cain,
so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

25 Adam knew his wife again,
and she bore a son and named him Seth,
for she said,
"God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel,
because Cain killed him."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50.1+8, 16bc-17, 20-21 (R.14a)

R. Offer to God a sacrifice of praise.

1 The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me. ***R.***

16 What right have you to recite my statutes,
or take my covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you. ***R.***

20 You sit and speak against your kin;
you slander your own mother's child.
21 These things you have done and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one just like yourself.
But now I rebuke you
and lay the charge before you. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.11-13

Why does this generation ask for a sign?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

11 The Pharisees came to Jesus and began to argue with him,
asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him.
12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said,
"Why does this generation ask for a sign?
Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation."
13 And he left them, and getting into the boat again,
he went across to the other shore.

The gospel of the Lord.

336 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 6.5-8; 7.1-5, 10

I will blot out the human beings I have created from the earth.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

5 The Lord saw
that the wickedness of humanity was great in the earth,
and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts
was only evil continually.
6 And the Lord was sorry that he had made human beings on the earth,
and it grieved him to his heart.
7 So the Lord said,
"I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—
people together with animals
and creeping things and birds of the air,
for I am sorry that I have made them."

8 But Noah found favour in the sight of the Lord.

1 The Lord said to Noah,
"Go into the ark, you and all your household,
for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me
in this generation.
2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals,
the male and its mate;
and a pair of the animals that are not clean,
the male and its mate;

➢

3 and seven pairs of the birds of the air also,
male and female,
to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth.
4 For in seven days
I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights;
and every living thing that I have made
I will blot out from the face of the ground."
5 And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.
10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 29.1a+2, 3ac+4, 3b+9b-10 (R.11b)

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendour. ***R.***

3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the Lord, over mighty waters.
4 The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. ***R.***

3 The God of glory thunders,
9 and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
10 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who love me, will keep my words,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.14-21

Beware the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After feeding the crowd, Jesus sent them away
and got into the boat with the disciples
to return to the other side of the lake.

14 Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread;
and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.
15 And Jesus cautioned them, saying, "Watch out—
beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod."
16 They said to one another, "It is because we have no bread."

17 And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them,
"Why are you talking about having no bread?
Do you still not perceive or understand?
Are your hearts hardened?
18 Do you have eyes, and fail to see?
Do you have ears, and fail to hear?
And do you not remember?
19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand,
how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?"
They said to him, "Twelve."

20 "And the seven for the four thousand,
how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?"
And they said to him, "Seven."
21 Then Jesus said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

The gospel of the Lord.

337 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 8.6-13, 20-22

Noah looked and saw that the face of the ground was drying.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

6 At the end of forty days
Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made
7 and sent out the raven;
and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.
8 Then he sent out the dove from him,
to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground;
9 but the dove found no place to set its foot,
and it returned to him to the ark,
for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth.
So he put out his hand and took it
and brought it into the ark with him. ➢

10 Noah waited another seven days,
and again he sent out the dove from the ark;
11 and the dove came back to him in the evening,
and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf;
so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.
12 Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove;
and it did not return to him any more.

13 In the six hundred first year,
in the first month, the first day of the month,
the waters were dried up from the earth;
and Noah removed the covering of the ark,
and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.

20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord,
and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird,
and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
21 And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odour,
the Lord said in his heart,
"I will never again curse the ground because of human beings,
for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth;
nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.
22 As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
shall not cease."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116.12-13, 14-15, 18-19 (R.17)

R. To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

12 What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord. ***R.***

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
15 Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones. ***R.***

18 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
19 in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **see Ephesians 1.17-18**

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.22-26

The sight of the man who was blind was restored and he saw everything clearly.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

22 Jesus and the disciples came to Bethsaida.
Some people brought to Jesus a man who was blind
and begged Jesus to touch him.
23 Jesus took the man who was blind by the hand
and led him out of the village;
and when he had put saliva on his eyes
and laid his hands on him,
he asked him, "Can you see anything?"
24 And the man looked up and said,
"I can see people, but they look like trees, walking."
25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again;
and the man looked intently and his sight was restored,
and he saw everything clearly.
26 Then Jesus sent the man away to his home, saying,
"Do not even go into the village."

The gospel of the Lord.

338 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 9.1-13

I have set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Noah left the ark with his wife and his sons and his sons' wives,
and offered a burnt offering to the Lord.

1 God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.
2 The fear and dread of you shall rest
on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air,
on everything that creeps on the ground,
and on all the fish of the sea;
into your hand they are delivered.
3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you;
and just as I gave you the green plants,
I give you everything.

4 "Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.
5 For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning:
from every animal I will require it and from human beings,
each one for the blood of another,
I will require a reckoning for human life.
6 Whoever sheds the blood of a human,
by a human shall that person's blood be shed;
for in his own image God made humanity.

7 "And you, be fruitful and multiply,
abound on the earth and multiply in it."

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant
with you and your descendants after you,
10 and with every living creature that is with you,
the birds, the domestic animals,
and every animal of the earth with you,
as many as came out of the ark.
11 I establish my covenant with you,
that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood,
and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant
that I make between me and you and every living creature
that is with you, for all future generations:
13 I have set my bow in the clouds,
and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102.15-17, 18-20, 28, 21-22 (R.19)

R. From heaven the Lord looks down on the earth.

15 The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
16 For the Lord will build up Zion;
he will appear in his glory.
17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer. ***R.***

18 Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord:
19 that he looked down from his holy height,
from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,
20 to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die. ***R.***

28 The children of your servants shall live secure;
their offspring shall be established in your presence,
21 so that the name of the Lord may be declared in Zion,
and his praise in Jerusalem,
22 when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.63b, 68b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.27-33

Peter answered: You are the Messiah.
Jesus said: The Son of Man must suffer much.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

27 Jesus went with his disciples
to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;
and on the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist;
and others, Elijah;
and still others, one of the prophets."

29 Jesus asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."
30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then Jesus began to teach them
that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering,
and be rejected by the elders,
the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and after three days rise again.
32 He said all this quite openly.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
33 But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter
and said, "Get behind me, Satan!
For you are setting your mind not on divine things
but on human things."

The gospel of the Lord.

339 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 11.1-9

Let us go down and confuse their language.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 The whole earth had one language and the same words.
2 And as people migrated from the east,
they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.
3 And they said to one another,
"Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly."

And they had brick for stone,
and bitumen for mortar.

4 Then they said,
"Come, let us build ourselves a city,
and a tower with its top in the heavens,
and let us make a name for ourselves;
otherwise we shall be scattered abroad
upon the face of the whole earth."

5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower,
which mortals had built.
6 And the Lord said, "Look, they are one people,
and they have all one language;
and this is only the beginning of what they will do;
nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.
7 Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there,
so that they will not understand one another's speech."

8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there
over the face of all the earth,
and they left off building the city.
9 Therefore it was called Babel,
because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth;
and from there the Lord scattered them abroad
over the face of all the earth.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (R.12)

R. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations. ***R.***

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
13 The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all human beings. ***R.***

14 From where he sits enthroned God watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—
15 he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.15b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me..

GOSPEL

Mark 8.34-38 - 9.1

Those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

34 Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
35 For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.
36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world
and forfeit their life?
37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words
in this adulterous and sinful generation,
of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed
when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you,
there are some standing here who will not taste death
until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

The gospel of the Lord.

340 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Hebrews 11.1-7

By faith we understand that the world was prepared by the word of God.

A reading from the book of Hebrews.

1 Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.
3 By faith we understand that
the worlds were prepared by the word of God,
so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God
a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's.
Through this he received approval as righteous,
God himself giving approval to his gifts;
he died, but through his faith he still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death;
and "he was not found, because God had taken him."
For it was attested before he was taken away
that "he had pleased God."
6 And without faith it is impossible to please God,
for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists
and that he rewards those who seek him.

7 By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen,
respected the warning
and built an ark to save his household;
by this he condemned the world
and became an heir to the righteousness
that is in accordance with faith.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145.2-3, 4-5, 10-11 (R. see 1)

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

2 Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable. ***R.***

4 One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
5 On the glorious splendour of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ***R.***

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Mark 9.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.2-13

Jesus was transfigured before the three disciples.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

2 Jesus took with him Peter and James and John,
and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
3 and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no one on earth could bleach them.

4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses,
who were talking with Jesus.
5 Then Peter said to Jesus,
"Rabbi, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three tents
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
6 Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

7 Then a cloud overshadowed them,
and from the cloud there came a voice,
"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
8 Suddenly when they looked around,
they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain,
he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen,
until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
10 So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

11 Then they asked him,
"Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
12 Jesus said to them,
"Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things.
How then is it written about the Son of Man,
that he is to go through many sufferings
and be treated with contempt?
13 But I tell you that Elijah has come,
and they did to him whatever they pleased,
as it is written about him."

The gospel of the Lord.

SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

341 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 1.1-10

Wisdom was created before all other things.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 All wisdom is from the Lord,
and with him it remains forever.
2 The sand of the sea, the drops of rain,
and the days of eternity—who can count them?
3 The height of heaven, the breadth of the earth,
the depth of the abyss, and wisdom
—who can search them out?

4 Wisdom was created before all other things,
and prudent understanding from eternity.
5 The source of wisdom is God's word
in the highest heaven,
and her ways are the eternal commandments.
6 The root of wisdom—to whom has it been revealed?
Her subtleties—who knows them?

7 The knowledge of wisdom—to whom was it manifested?
And her abundant experience—who has understood it?
8 There is but one who is wise, greatly to be feared,
seated upon his throne—the Lord.
9 It is he who created her;
he saw her and took her measure;
he poured her out upon all his works,
10 upon all the living according to his gift;
he lavished her upon those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 93.1ab, 1c-2, 4c-5 (R.1a)++

R. The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty.

1 The Lord is king,
he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed,
he is girded with strength. ***R.***

The Lord has established the world;
it shall never be moved;
2 Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting. ***R.***

4 Majestic on high is the Lord!
5 Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forevermore. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION — 2 Timothy 1.10b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL — Mark 9.14-29

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Jesus, Peter, James and John, came down the mountain
to rejoin the other disciples.
14 When they came to the disciples,
they saw a great crowd around them,
and some scribes arguing with them.
15 When the whole crowd saw Jesus,
they were immediately overcome with awe,
and they ran forward to greet him.

16 He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?"
17 Someone from the crowd answered him,
"Teacher, I brought you my son;
he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak;
18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down;
and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid;
and I asked your disciples to cast it out,
but they could not do so."

19 Jesus answered them, "You faithless generation,
how much longer must I be among you?
How much longer must I put up with you?
Bring him to me."
20 And they brought the boy to him.
When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy,
and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

21 Jesus asked the father,
"How long has this been happening to him?"
And he said, "From childhood.
22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water,
to destroy him;
but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us."

23 Jesus said to him,
"If you are able!
—All things can be done for the one who believes."
24 Immediately the father of the child cried out,
"I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together,
he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it,
"You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing,
I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"
26 After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out,
and the boy was like a corpse,
so that most of them said, "He is dead."
27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up,
and he was able to stand.

28 When Jesus had entered the house,
his disciples asked him privately,
"Why could we not cast it out?"
29 He said to them, "This kind can come out
only through prayer and fasting."

The gospel of the Lord.

342 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 2.1-11

When you serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 My child,
when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for trials.
2 Set your heart right and be steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of calamity. ➢

3 Cling to God and do not depart,
so that your last days may be prosperous.
4 Accept whatever befalls you,
and in times of humiliation be patient.
5 For gold is tested in the fire,
and those found acceptable,
in the furnace of humiliation.

6 Trust in God, and he will help you;
make your ways straight, and hope in him.
7 You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;
do not stray, or else you may fall.
8 You who fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
9 You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

10 Consider the generations of old and see:
has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?
Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken?
Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?

11 For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;
he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 37.3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 (R. see 5)

R. Commit your life to the Lord,
and the Lord will help you.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***R.***

18 The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will abide forever;
19 they are not put to shame in evil times,
in the days of famine they have abundance. ***R.***

27 Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide forever.
28 For the Lord loves justice;
he will not forsake his faithful ones. ***R.***

39

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
40 The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Galatians 6.14

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.30-37

The Son of Man is betrayed.
Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

30 Jesus and the disciples passed through Galilee.
He did not want anyone to know it;
31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,
"The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands,
and they will kill him,
and three days after being killed, he will rise again."
32 But they did not understand what he was saying
and were afraid to ask him.

33 Then they came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house Jesus asked them,
"What were you arguing about on the way?"
34 But they were silent, for on the way
they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

35 Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."
36 Then he took a little child and put it among them;
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,
37 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me
welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

343 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 4.11-19

God loves those who love wisdom.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

11 Wisdom teaches her children
and gives help to those who seek her.
12 Whoever loves her loves life,
and those who seek her from early morning are filled with joy.
13 Whoever holds her fast inherits glory,
and the Lord blesses the place she enters.
14 Those who serve her minister to the Holy One;
the Lord loves those who love her.
15 Those who obey her will judge the nations,
and all who listen to her will live secure.
16 If they remain faithful, they will inherit her;
their descendants will also obtain her.

17 For at first she will walk with them on tortuous paths;
she will bring fear and dread upon them,
and will torment them by her discipline
until they remain faithful in their heart
and she will test them with her ordinances.
18 Then she will come straight back to them again and gladden them,
and will reveal her secrets to them.

19 If they go astray she will forsake them,
and hand them over to their ruin.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.165+168, 171-172, 174-175 (R.165a)

R. Those who love your law have great peace, O Lord.++

or: O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.

165 Great peace have those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble.
168 I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you. ***R.***

171 My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.
172 My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right. ***R.***

174 I long for your salvation, O Lord,
and your law is my delight.
175 Let me live that I may praise you,
and let your ordinances help me. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.38-40

Whoever is not against us, is for us.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

38 John, one of the disciples, said to Jesus,
"Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,
and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."
39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him;
for no one who does a deed of power in my name
will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.
40 Whoever is not against us is for us."

The gospel of the Lord.

344 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 5.1-8

Do not delay to turn back to the Lord.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 Do not rely on your wealth,
or say, "I have enough."
2 Do not follow your inclination and strength
in pursuing the desires of your heart.
3 Do not say, "Who can have power over me?"
for the Lord will surely punish you.

➢

4 Do not say, "I sinned, yet what has happened to me?"
for the Lord is slow to anger.
5 Do not be so confident of forgiveness
that you add sin to sin.
6 Do not say, "His mercy is great,
he will forgive the multitude of my sins,"
for both mercy and wrath are with him,
and his anger will rest on sinners.
7 Do not delay to turn back to the Lord,
and do not postpone it from day to day;
for suddenly the wrath of the Lord will come upon you,
and at the time of punishment you will perish.

8 Do not depend on dishonest wealth,
for it will not benefit you on the day of calamity.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1.1-2, 3, 4+6 (R.40.5a)

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1 Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night. ***R.***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper. ***R.***

4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Thessalonians 2.13

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Receive this message not as human words,
but as truly the word of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.41-50

It is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

41 Jesus said to the disciples:
"Truly I tell you,
whoever gives you a cup of water to drink
because you bear the name of Christ
will by no means lose the reward.

42 "If any of you put a stumbling block
before one of these little ones who believe in me,
it would be better for you
if a great millstone were hung around your neck
and you were thrown into the sea.

43 "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off;
it is better for you to enter life maimed
than to have two hands and to go to hell,
to the unquenchable fire.
45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off;
it is better for you to enter life lame
than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.
47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out;
it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye
than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,
48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49 "For everyone will be salted with fire,
and every sacrifice will be salted with salt.
50 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness,
how can you restore it?
Have salt in yourselves,
and be at peace with one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

345 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 6.5-17

Faithful friends are beyond price.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

My child,
5 pleasant speech multiplies friends,
and a gracious tongue multiplies courtesies.
6 Let those who are friendly with you be many,
but let your advisers be one in a thousand.
7 When you gain friends, gain them through testing,
and do not trust them hastily.

8 For there are friends who are such when it suits them,
but they will not stand by you in time of trouble.
9 And there are friends who change into enemies,
and tell of the quarrel to your disgrace.
10 And there are friends who sit at your table,
but they will not stand by you in time of trouble.
11 When you are prosperous, they become your second self,
and lord it over your servants;
12 but if you are brought low, they turn against you,
and hide themselves from you.
13 Keep away from your enemies,
and be on guard with your friends.

14 Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter:
whoever finds one has found a treasure.
15 Faithful friends are beyond price;
no amount can balance their worth.
16 Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;
and those who fear the Lord will find them.
17 Those who fear the Lord direct their friendship aright,
for as they are, so are their neighbours also.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.12+16, 18+27, 34-35 (R.35a)

R. Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.
16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. ***R.***

18 Open my eyes, so that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.
27 Make me understand the way of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your wondrous works. ***R.***

34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.
35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 17.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.1-12

What God has joined together, let no one separate.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus continued his journey
and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.
And crowds again gathered around him;
and, as was his custom, he again taught them.

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"
3 Jesus answered them, "What did Moses command you?"

4 They said,
"Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal
and to divorce her."
5 But Jesus said to them,
"Because of your hardness of heart
he wrote this commandment for you.
6 But from the beginning of creation,
'God made them male and female.'

➢

7 ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
8 and the two shall become one flesh.’
So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.
11 Jesus said to them,
“Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her;
12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another,
she commits adultery.”

The gospel of the Lord.

346 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 17.1-4, 6-8, 10-15

God created human beings in his own image.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 The Lord created human beings out of earth,
and makes them return to it again.
2 He gave them a fixed number of days,
but granted them authority over everything on the earth.
3 He endowed them with strength proper to them
and made them in his own image.
4 He put the fear of them in all living beings,
and gave them dominion over beasts and birds.

6 Discretion and tongue and eyes,
ears and a mind for thinking he gave them.
7 He filled them with knowledge and understanding,
and showed them good and evil.
8 He put the fear of him into their hearts
to show them the majesty of his works.

10 And they will praise his holy name,
9 to proclaim the grandeur of his works.
11 He bestowed knowledge upon them,
and allotted to them the law of life.
12 He established with them an eternal covenant,
and revealed to them his decrees.

13 Their eyes saw his glorious majesty,
and their ears heard the glory of his voice.
14 He said to them, "Beware of all evil."
And he gave commandment to each of them concerning the neighbour.
15 Their ways are always known to him;
they will not be hid from his eyes.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.13-14, 15-16, 17-18 (R. see 17)

R. The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust. ***R.***

15 As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more. ***R.***

17 But the steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.13-16

Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, will never enter it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus
in order that he might touch them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.
14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,
"Let the little children come to me;
do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God
as a little child will never enter it."

16 And Jesus took the children up in his arms,
laid his hands on them,
and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord.

EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

347 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 17.24-27, 29

Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

24 To those who repent God grants a return,
and encourages those who are losing hope.
25 Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins;
pray in his presence and lessen your offense.
26 Return to the Most High and turn away from iniquity,
and hate intensely what he abhors.

27 Who will sing praises to the Most High in the grave
in place of the living who give thanks?
28 From the dead, as from one who does not exist,
thanksgiving has ceased;
those who are alive and well sing the Lord's praises.

29 How great is the mercy of the Lord,
and his forgiveness for those who return to him!

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32.1-2, 5, 6, 7 (R.11a)

R. Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ***R.***

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. ***R.***

6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ***R.***

7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 8.9

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.17-27

Go sell what you own and come follow me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

17 As Jesus was setting out on a journey,
a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him,
"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good?
No one is good but God alone.
19 You know the commandments:
'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery;
You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness;
You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'"

20 The man said to Jesus,
"Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."
21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,
"You lack one thing;
go, sell what you own,
and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me."

22 When he heard this, the man was shocked and went away grieving,
for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
"How hard it will be for those who have wealth
to enter the kingdom of God!"
24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words.
But Jesus said to them again,
"Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches
to enter the kingdom of God!
25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another,
"Then who can be saved?"

27 Jesus looked at them and said,
“For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;
for God all things are possible.”

The gospel of the Lord.

348 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 35.1-12

Keeping the commandments is a pleasing sacrifice.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 The one who keeps the law makes many offerings;
2 one who heeds the commandments makes an offering of well-being.
3 The one who returns a kindness offers choice flour,
4 and one who gives alms makes a thank offering.

5 To keep from wickedness is pleasing to the Lord,
and to forsake unrighteousness is an atonement.
6 Do not appear before the Lord empty-handed,
7 for all that you offer is in fulfillment of the commandment.
8 The offering of the righteous enriches the altar,
and its pleasing odour rises before the Most High.
9 The sacrifice of the righteous is acceptable,
and it will never be forgotten.

10 Be generous when you worship the Lord,
and do not stint the first fruits of your hands.
11 With every gift show a cheerful face,
and dedicate your tithe with gladness.
12 Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.

13 For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.
14 Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it;
15 and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50.4-5, 7-8, 14+23 (R.23b)

R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

4 The mighty God calls to the heavens above
and to the earth
that he may judge his people.
5 "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" ***R.***

7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.
8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me. ***R.***

14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.
23 Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honour me;
to those who go the right way
I will show the salvation of God." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.28-31

You will receive a hundredfold now in this age,
and in the age to come eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

28 Peter began to say to Jesus,
"Look, we have left everything and followed you."
29 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you,
there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or fields,
for my sake and for the sake of the good news,
30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age
—houses, brothers and sisters,
mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—
and in the age to come eternal life.
31 "But many who are first will be last,
and the last will be first."

The gospel of the Lord.

349 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 36.1-2, 5-6, 13-22

The nations will know that there is no God but you.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 Have mercy upon us, O God of all,
2 and put all the nations in fear of you.
5 Then they will know, as we have known
that there is no God but you, O Lord.

6 Give new signs, and work other wonders.
13 Gather all the tribes of Jacob,
16 and give them their inheritance, as at the beginning.

17 Have mercy, O Lord, on the people called by your name,
on Israel, whom you have named your firstborn,
18 Have pity on your holy city Jerusalem,
the place of your dwelling.
19 Fill Zion with the celebration of your wondrous deeds
and your temple with your glory.

20 Bear witness to those whom you created in the beginning,
and fulfill the prophecies spoken in your name.
21 Reward those who wait for you
and let your prophets be found trustworthy.

22 Hear, O Lord, the prayer of your servants,
according to the blessing of Aaron for your people,
and all who are on the earth will know
that you are the Lord, the God of the ages.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 79.8, 9, 11, 13 (R. Sir 36.1)

R. O Lord, look on us with mercy.

8 Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low. ***R.***

9 Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake. ***R.***

11 Let the groans of the prisoners come before you;
according to your great power
preserve those doomed to die. ***R.***

13 Then we your people,
the flock of your pasture,
will give thanks to you forever;
from generation to generation we will recount your praise. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 10.45

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Son of Man came to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for all.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.32-45

We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

32 Jesus and the disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem,
and Jesus was walking ahead of them;
they were amazed,
and those who followed were afraid.
He took the twelve aside again
and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying,
33 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man
will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes,
and they will condemn him to death;
then they will hand him over to the Gentiles;
34 they will mock him, and spit upon him,
and flog him, and kill him;
and after three days he will rise again."

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
came forward to him and said to him,
"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."
36 And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"
37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit,
one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

38 But Jesus said to them,
"You do not know what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
39 They replied, "We are able."

Then Jesus said to them,
"The cup that I drink you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am baptized,
you will be baptized;
40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41 When the ten heard this,
they began to be angry with James and John.
42 So Jesus called them and said to them,
"You know that among the Gentiles
those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them,
and their great ones are tyrants over them.
43 But it is not so among you;
but whoever wishes to become great among you
must be your servant,
44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.
45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The gospel of the Lord.

350 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 42.15-25

The work of the Lord is full of his glory.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

15 I will now call to mind the works of the Lord,
and will declare what I have seen.
By the word of the Lord his works are made;
and all his creatures do his will.
16 The sun looks down on everything with its light,
and the work of the Lord is full of his glory.

17 The Lord has not empowered even his holy ones
to recount all his marvellous works,
which the Lord the Almighty has established
so that the universe may stand firm in his glory.
18 He searches out the abyss and the human heart;
he understands their innermost secrets.
For the Most High knows all that may be known;
he sees the signs of the age.

➢

19 He discloses what has been and what is to be,
and he reveals the traces of hidden things.
20 No thought escapes him,
and nothing is hidden from him.
21 He has set in order the splendours of his wisdom;
he is from all eternity one and the same.
Nothing can be added or taken away,
and he needs no one to be his counsellor.

22 How desirable are all his works,
and how sparkling they are to see!
23 All these things live and remain forever;
each creature is preserved to meet a particular need.
24 All things come in pairs, one opposite the other,
and he has made nothing incomplete.
25 Each supplements the virtues of the other.
Who could ever tire of seeing his glory?

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (R.6a)

R. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made.

2 Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
3 Sing to him a new song;
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ***R.***

4 For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. ***R.***

6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses. ***R.***

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
9 For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8.12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.46-52

My teacher, let me see again.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

46 Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho.
As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho,
Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, a blind beggar,
was sitting by the roadside.
47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to shout out and say,
"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet,
but he cried out even more loudly,
"Son of David, have mercy on me!"
49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here."
And they called the man who was blind, saying to him,
"Take heart; get up, he is calling you."

50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.
51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."
52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well."
Immediately Bartimaeus regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

The gospel of the Lord.

351 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 44.1, 9-13

The deeds of the righteous have not been forgotten.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 Let us now sing the praises of famous men,
our ancestors in their generations.
8 Some of them have left behind a name,
so that others declare their praise.
9 But of others there is no memory;
they have perished as though they had never existed;
they have become as though they had never been born,
they and their children after them.

10 But these also were godly men,
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;
11 their wealth will remain with their descendants,
and their inheritance with their children's children.
12 Their descendants stand by the covenants;
their children also, for their sake.
13 Their offspring will continue forever,
and their glory will never be blotted out.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 149.1-2, 3-4, 5-6a+9b (R.4a)

R. The Lord takes delight in his people.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. ***R.***

3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory. ***R.***

5 Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats.
9 This is glory for all his faithful ones. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord,
to go and bear fruit that will last.

GOSPEL

Mark 11.11-25

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.
Have faith in God.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After his triumphant entry into Jerusalem,
11 Jesus went into the temple;
and when he had looked around at everything,
as it was already late,
he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

12 One day, when Jesus and the disciples came from Bethany,
he was hungry.
13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf,
he went to see whether he would find anything on it.
When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves,
for it was not the season for figs.
14 He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again."
And his disciples heard it.

15 Then they came to Jerusalem.
And he entered the temple
and began to drive out those who were selling
and those who were buying in the temple,
and he overturned the tables of the money changers
and the seats of those who sold doves;
16 and he would not allow anyone
to carry anything through the temple.

17 He was teaching and saying,
"Is it not written,
'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?
But you have made it a den of robbers." ➢

18 And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it,
they kept looking for a way to kill him;
for they were afraid of him,
because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

19 And when evening came,
Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.
20 In the morning as they passed by,
they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.
21 Then Peter remembered and said to him,
“Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.”

22 Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God.
23 Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain,
‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’
and if you do not doubt in your heart,
but believe that what you say will come to pass,
it will be done for you.
24 So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
25 “Whenever you stand praying,
forgive, if you have anything against anyone;
so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

The gospel of the Lord.

352 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 51.12-20

I will give glory to the one who gives me wisdom.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

12 I thank you and praise you, O God my saviour,
and I bless the name of the Lord.
13 While I was still young, before I went on my travels,
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
14 Before the temple I asked for her,
and I will search for her until the end.

15 From the first blossom to the ripening grape
my heart delighted in her;
my foot walked on the straight path;
from my youth I followed her steps.

16 I inclined my ear a little and received her,
and I found for myself much instruction.
17 I made progress in her;
to him who gives wisdom I will give glory.

18 For I resolved to live according to wisdom,
and I was zealous for the good,
and I shall never be disappointed.

19 My soul grappled with wisdom,
and in my conduct I was strict;
I spread out my hands to the heavens,
and lamented my ignorance of her.
20 I directed my soul to her,
and in purity I found her.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.8a)

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3.16a, 17c

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord,
and may the fullness of his message live within you.

GOSPEL

Mark 11.27-33

By what authority are you doing these things?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

27 Jesus and the disciples came to Jerusalem.
As he was walking in the temple,
the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Jesus
28 and said, "By what authority are you doing these things?
Who gave you this authority to do them?"

29 Jesus said to them,
"I will ask you one question;
answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.
30 Did the baptism of John come from heaven,
or was it of human origin?
Answer me."

31 They argued with one another,
"If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say,
'Why then did you not believe him?'
32 But shall we say, 'Of human origin'?"
—they were afraid of the crowd,
for all regarded John as truly a prophet.

33 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."
And Jesus said to them,
"Neither will I tell you by what authority
I am doing these things."

The gospel of the Lord.

NINTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

353 MONDAY

FIRST READING
Tobit 1.1ad, 2a, 3, 17; 2.1-8++

Tobit walked in the ways of truth and righteousness all the days of my life.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

1 This book tells the story of Tobit, son of Tobiel,
of the tribe of Naphtali,
2 who in the days of King Shalmaneser of the Assyrians,
was taken into captivity.

3 I, Tobit, walked in the ways of truth and righteousness
all the days of my life.
I performed many acts of charity for my kindred
for my people who had gone with me in exile to Nineveh.
17 I would give my food to the hungry
and my clothing to the naked;
and if I saw the dead body of any people
thrown out behind the wall of Nineveh,
I would bury it.

1 At our festival of Pentecost,
which is the sacred festival of weeks,
a good dinner was prepared for me and I reclined to eat.
2 When the table was set for me
and an abundance of food placed before me,
I said to my son Tobias,
“Go, my child, and bring whatever poor person you may find
of our people among the exiles in Nineveh,
who is wholeheartedly mindful of God,
and he shall eat together with me.
I will wait for you, until you come back.”

3 So Tobias went to look for some poor person of our people.
When he had returned he said, “Father!”
And I replied, “Here I am, my child.”
Then he went on to say, “Look, father,
one of our own people has been murdered
and thrown into the market place,
and now he lies there strangled.”
4 Then I sprang up,
left the dinner before even tasting it,

➢

and removed the body from the square
and laid it in one of the rooms until sunset
when I might bury it.
5 When I returned, I washed myself and ate my food in sorrow.

6 Then I remembered the prophecy of Amos,
how he said against Bethel,
“Your festivals shall be turned into mourning,
and all your songs into lamentation.”
And I wept.
7 When the sun had set, I went and dug a grave and buried him.
8 And my neighbours laughed and said,
“Is he still not afraid?
He has already been hunted down
to be put to death for doing this, and he ran away;
yet here he is again burying the dead!”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 1.5ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead;
you have loved us and washed away our sins in your blood.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.1-12

The tenants seized the beloved son, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus began to speak to the high priests and the scribes in parables.
"A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it,
dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower;
then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.
2 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants
to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard.
3 But they seized him, and beat him,
and sent him away empty-handed.

4 "And again he sent another slave to them;
this one they beat over the head and insulted.
5 Then he sent another, and that one they killed.
And so it was with many others;
some they beat, and others they killed.

6 "He had still one other, a beloved son.
Finally he sent him to them, saying,
'They will respect my son.'
7 But those tenants said to one another,
'This is the heir;
come, let us kill him,
and the inheritance will be ours.'
8 So they seized him, killed him,
and threw him out of the vineyard.

9 "What then will the owner of the vineyard do?
He will come and destroy the tenants
and give the vineyard to others.
10 Have you not read this scripture:
'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
11 this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

12 When the high priests and the scribes
realized that Jesus had told this parable against them,
they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd.
So they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

354 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Tobit 2.9-14; 3.1++

Completely blind, Tobit did not turn against God.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

9 At night I, Tobit, tired from burying the dead,
washed myself and went into my courtyard
and slept by the wall of the courtyard;
and my face was uncovered because of the heat.

10 I did not know that there were sparrows on the wall;
their fresh droppings fell into my eyes and produced white films.
I went to physicians to be healed,
but the more they treated me with ointments
the more my vision was obscured by the white films,
until I became completely blind.

11 At that time, also, my wife Anna earned money as a weaver.
12 She used to send what she made to the owners
and they would pay wages to her.
One day, the seventh of Dystrus,
when she cut off a piece she had woven and sent it to the owners,
they paid her full wages
and also gave her a young goat for a meal.

13 When she returned to me, the goat began to bleat.
So I called her and said,
"Where did you get this goat?
It is surely not stolen, is it?
Return it to the owners;
for we have no right to eat anything stolen."
14 But she said to me,
"It was given to me as a gift in addition to my wages."
But I did not believe her, and told her to return it to the owners.
I became flushed with anger against her over this.
Then she replied to me,
"Where are your acts of charity?
Where are your righteous deeds?
These things are known about you!"

1 Then with much grief and anguish of heart I wept,
and with groaning began to pray.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 7bc-8, 9 (R. see 7c)

R. The hearts of the just are secure,
trusting in the Lord.

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ***R.***

9 They have distributed freely,
they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their name is exalted in honour. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Ephesians 1.17-18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.13-17

Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 Some Pharisees and some Herodians were sent to Jesus
to trap him in what he said.
14 And they came and said to him,
"Teacher, we know that you are sincere,
and show deference to no one;
for you do not regard people with partiality,
but teach the way of God in accordance with truth.
Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?
15 Should we pay them, or should we not?"
But knowing their hypocrisy, Jesus said to them,
"Why are you putting me to the test?
Bring me a denarius and let me see it."
16 And they brought one.
Then he said to them,
"Whose head is this, and whose title?"
They answered, "The emperor's." ➢

17 Jesus said to them,
"Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's,
and to God the things that are God's."
And they were utterly amazed at him.

The gospel of the Lord.

355 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Tobit 3.1-6a, 7-10a, 11-13, 15b-17a

The prayers of Tobit and Sarah were heard in the glorious presence of God.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

Tobit, who was blind and ridiculed by his neighbours,
even by his wife,
1 wept with much grief and anguish of the heart and began to pray saying:
2 "You are righteous, O Lord,
and all your deeds are just;
all your ways are mercy and truth;
you judge the world.

3 "And now, O Lord, remember me
and look favourably upon me.
Do not punish me for my sins
and for my unwitting offenses
and those that my ancestors committed before you.
They sinned against you,
4 and disobeyed your commandments.
So you gave us over to plunder, exile, and death,
to become the talk, the byword, and an object of reproach
among all the nations among whom you have dispersed us.
5 And now your many judgments are true
in exacting penalty from me for my sins.
For we have not kept your commandments
and have not walked in accordance with truth before you.

6 "So now deal with me as you will;
command my spirit to be taken from me,
so that I may be released from the face of the earth
and become dust.
For it is better for me to die than to live."

7 On the same day, at Ecbatana in Media,
it also happened that Sarah, the daughter of Raguel,
was reproached by one of her father's maids.
8 For she had been married to seven husbands,
and the wicked demon Asmodeus had killed each of them
before they had been with her as is customary for wives.

So the maid said to her,
"You are the one who kills your husbands!
See, you have already been married to seven husbands
and have not borne the name of a single one of them.
9 Why do you beat us?
Because your husbands are dead?
Go with them!
May we never see a son or daughter of yours!"
10 On that day she was grieved in spirit and wept.
When she had gone up to her father's upper room,
11 with hands outstretched toward the window,
she prayed and said,
"Blessed are you, merciful God!
Blessed is your name forever;
let all your works praise you forever.
12 And now, Lord, I turn my face to you,
and raise my eyes toward you.
13 Command that I be released from the earth
and not listen to such reproaches any more.
15 I am my father's only child;
he has no other child to be his heir;
and he has no close relative or other kindred
for whom I should keep myself as wife.
Already seven husbands of mine have died.
Why should I still live?
But if it is not pleasing to you, O Lord, to take my life,
hear me in my disgrace."

16 At that very moment,
the prayers of both of them were heard
in the glorious presence of God.
17 So the angel Raphael was sent to heal both of them:
Tobit, by removing the white films from his eyes,
so that he might see God's light with his eyes; ➢

and Sarah, daughter of Raguel,
by giving her in marriage to Tobias son of Tobit,
and by setting her free from the wicked demon.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25.2-3, 4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9 (R.1)

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. ***R.***

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth,
and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation. ***R.***

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 According to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord! ***R.***

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 11.25, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.18-27

He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

18 Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection,
came to Jesus and asked him a question, saying,
19 "Teacher,
Moses wrote for us that
'if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child,
the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.'

20 "There were seven brothers;
the first married and, when he died, left no children;
21 and the second married her and died, leaving no children;
and the third likewise;
22 none of the seven left children.
Last of all the woman herself died.
23 In the resurrection whose wife will she be?
For the seven had married her."

24 Jesus said to them,
"Is not this the reason you are wrong,
that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God?
25 For when they rise from the dead,
they neither marry nor are given in marriage,
but are like angels in heaven.

26 "And as for the dead being raised,
have you not read in the book of Moses,
in the story about the bush, how God said to him,
'I am the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'?

27 "He is God not of the dead, but of the living;
you are quite wrong."

The gospel of the Lord.

356 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Tobit 4.20; 5.4; 6.10-11b; 7.1, 9-16; 8.1, 4-9++

The Lord sent me to you, Tobias, so that you and Sarah would marry.
"Lord, grant that Sarah and I may find mercy and grow old together."

A reading from the book of Tobit.

Tobit called his son, Tobias, and said to him,
20 "And now, my son, let me explain to you
that I left ten talents of silver in trust with Gabias son of Gabrias,
at Rages in Media."
4 So Tobias went out to look for a man to go with him to Media,
someone who was acquainted with the way.
He went out and found the angel Raphael standing in front of him,
but he did not perceive that he was an angel of God.

10 When Tobias and Raphael entered Media
and already were approaching Ecbatana,
11 Raphael said to the young man, Tobias,
"We must stay this night in the home of Raguel.
He is your relative, and he has a daughter named Sarah."

1 Now when they entered Ecbatana, Tobias said to him,
"Brother Azariah, take me straight to our brother Raguel."
So he took him to Raguel's house,
where they found him sitting beside the courtyard door.
They greeted him first, and he replied,
"Joyous greetings, brothers;
welcome and good health!"
Then he brought them into his house.

9 Then Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock
and received them very warmly.
When they had bathed and washed themselves
and had reclined to dine, Tobias said to Raphael,
"Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah."
10 But Raguel overheard it and said to the lad,
"Eat and drink, and be merry tonight.
For no one except you, brother,
has the right to marry my daughter Sarah.
Likewise I am not at liberty to give her
to any other man than yourself,
because you are my nearest relative.

But let me explain to you the true situation more fully, my child.
11 I have given her to seven men of our kinsmen,
and all died on the night when they went in to her.
But now, my child, eat and drink,
and the Lord will act on behalf of you both."
But Tobias said,
"I will neither eat nor drink anything
until you settle the things that pertain to me."
So Raguel said, "I will do so.
She is given to you in accordance with the decree in the book of Moses,
and it has been decreed from heaven that she be given to you.
Take your kinswoman;
from now on you are her brother and she is your sister.
She is given to you from today and forever.
May the Lord of heaven, my child,
guide and prosper you both this night
and grant you mercy and peace."

12 Then Raguel summoned his daughter Sarah.
When she came to him
he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias, saying,
"Take her to be your wife
in accordance with the law and decree written in the book of Moses.
Take her and bring her safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven prosper your journey with his peace."

13 Then Raguel called her mother
and told her to bring writing material;
and he wrote out a copy of a marriage contract,
to the effect that he gave her to him as wife
according to the decree of the law of Moses.
14 Then they began to eat and drink.

15 Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her,
"Sister, get the other room ready, and take her there."
16 So she went and made the bed in the room as he had told her,
and brought Sarah there.
She wept for her daughter.
Then, wiping away the tears, she said to Sarah,
"Take courage, my daughter;
the Lord of heaven grant you joy in place of your sorrow.
Take courage, my daughter."
Then she went out.

➢

1 When they had finished eating and drinking they wanted to retire;
so they took the young man and brought him into the bedroom.
4 When the parents had gone out and shut the door of the room,
Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah,
"Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord
that he grant us mercy and safety."

5 So she got up, and they began to pray and implore
that they might be kept safe.
Tobias began by saying,
"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.
6 You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve
as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, `It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.'

7 "I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust, but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together."

8 And they both said, "Amen, Amen."
9 Then they went to sleep for the night.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128.1-2, 3, 4-5 (R. see 1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1 Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. ***R.***

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table. ***R.***

4 Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
5 The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See 2 Timothy 1.10

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.28-34

There is no other commandment greater than these.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

28 One of the scribes came near to Jesus and asked him,
"Which commandment is the first of all?"
29 Jesus answered, "The first is,
'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

31 "The second is this,
'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 Then the scribe said to him,
"You are right, Teacher;
you have truly said that 'he is one,
and besides him there is no other';
33 and 'to love him with all the heart,
and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,'
and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,'
—this is much more important
than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The gospel of the Lord.

357 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Tobit 11.5-15

You afflicted me and had pity on me, and now I see my son Tobias.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

5 Tobit's wife, Anna, sat looking intently down the road,
by which her son, Tobias, would come.
6 When she caught sight of him coming, she said to his father,
"Look, your son is coming,
and the man who went with him!"

7 Raphael said to Tobias, before he had approached his father,
"I know that his eyes will be opened.
8 Smear the gall of the fish on his eyes;
the medicine will make the white films shrink
and peel off from his eyes,
and your father will regain his sight and see the light."

9 Then Anna ran up to her son
and threw her arms around him, saying,
"Now that I have seen you, my child, I am ready to die."
And she wept.

10 Then Tobit got up
and came stumbling out through the courtyard door.
Tobias went up to him,
11 with the gall of the fish in his hand,
and holding him firmly, he blew into his eyes, saying,
"Take courage, father."
With this he applied the medicine on his eyes,
12 and it made them smart.
13 Next, with both his hands
he peeled off the white films from the corners of his eyes.

Then Tobit saw his son and threw his arms around him,
14 and he wept and said to him,
"I see you, my son, the light of my eyes!"
Then Tobit said,
"Blessed be God,
and blessed be his great name,
and blessed be all his holy angels.
May his holy name be blessed throughout all the ages.

15 Though he afflicted me,
he has had mercy upon me.
Now I see my son Tobias!"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 146.1-2ab, 6-7, 8-9ab, 9cd-10 (R.2b)

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul!
2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God
all my life long. ***R.***

6 It is thee Lord who keeps faith forever;
7 who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free. ***R.***

8 The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
9 The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow, ***R.***

the Lord loves the righteous.
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
10 The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.35-37

How can the Scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said,
"How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?
36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,
'The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet.'
37 David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?"
And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

The gospel of the Lord.

358 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Tobit 12.1-20

I am ascending to him who sent me; bless God forevermore.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

1 After the angel Raphael brought Tobias home,
Tobit said to his son,
"My child, see to paying the wages of the man who went with you,
and give him a bonus as well."
2 Tobias replied,
"Father, how much shall I pay him?
It would do no harm
to give him half of the possessions brought back with me.
3 For he has led me back to you safely,
he cured my wife,
he brought the money back with me,
and he healed you.
How much extra shall I give him as a bonus?"

4 Tobit said, "He deserves, my child,
to receive half of all that he brought back."
5 So Tobias called Raphael and said,
"Take for your wages half of all that you brought back,
and farewell."

6 Then Raphael called the two of them privately and said to them,
"Bless God and acknowledge him in the presence of all the living
for the good things he has done for you.
Bless and sing praise to his name.
With fitting honour declare to all people the deeds of God.
Do not be slow to acknowledge him.
7 It is good to conceal the secret of a king,
but to acknowledge and reveal the works of God,
and with fitting honour to acknowledge him.
Do good and evil will not overtake you.

8 "Prayer with fasting is good,
but better than both is almsgiving with righteousness.
A little with righteousness is better than wealth with wrongdoing.
9 For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin.
Those who give alms will enjoy a full life,
10 but those who commit sin and do wrong
are their own worst enemies.

11 "I will now declare the whole truth to you
and will conceal nothing from you.
Already I have declared it to you when I said,
'It is good to conceal the secret of a king,
but to reveal with due honour the works of God.'
12 So now when you and Sarah prayed,
it was I who brought and read the record of your prayer
before the glory of the Lord,
and likewise whenever you would bury the dead.
13 And that time when you did not hesitate to get up
and leave your dinner to go and bury the dead,
14 I was sent to you to test you.
And at the same time God sent me
to heal you and Sarah your daughter-in-law.

15 "I am Raphael, one of the seven angels
who stand ready and enter before the glory of the Lord."

16 The two of them were shaken;
they fell face down, for they were afraid.
17 But he said to them, "Do not be afraid;
peace be with you.
Bless God forevermore.
18 As for me, when I was with you,
I was not acting on my own will, but by the will of God.
Bless him each and every day; sing his praises. ➢

19 Although you were watching me,
I really did not eat or drink anything—
but what you saw was a vision.
20 So now get up from the ground,
and acknowledge God.
See, I am ascending to him who sent me.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Tobit 13.2, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d (R.2)

R. Blessed be God, who lives for ever.

2 God afflicts, and he shows mercy;
he leads down to Hades in the lowest regions of the earth,
and he brings up from the great abyss,
and there is nothing that can escape his hand. ***R.***

6 If you turn to him with all your heart and with all your soul,
to do what is true before him,
then he will turn to you
and will no longer hide his face from you. ***R.***

So now see what he has done for you;
acknowledge him at the top of your voice.
Bless the Lord of righteousness,
and exalt the King of the ages. ***R.***

In the land of my exile
I acknowledge him,
and show his power and majesty
to a nation of sinners. ***R.***

Turn back, you sinners,
and do what is right before him;
perhaps he may look with favour upon you
and show you mercy. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5.3

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

GOSPEL

Mark 12.38-44

This poor widow has put in more than all the others.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

38 When Jesus was teaching the crowd, he said,
"Beware of the scribes,
who like to walk around in long robes,
and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,
39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues
and places of honour at banquets!
40 They devour widows' houses
and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.
They will receive the greater condemnation."

41 Jesus sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,
which are worth a penny.

43 Then he called his disciples and said to them,
"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.
44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on."

The gospel of the Lord.

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR

WEEKDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR II

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

305 MONDAY

When the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the Monday of the First Week of Ordinary Time, the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read.

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 1.1-8

Hannah's rivals taunt her because she is childless.

A reading from the book of Samuel.

1 There was a certain man of Ramathaim,
a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim,
whose name was Elkanah, an Ephraimite.
2 He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah,
and the name of the other Peninnah.
Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.
3 Now this man used to go up year by year from his town
to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh,
where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas,
were priests of the Lord.

4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed,
he would give portions to his wife Peninnah
and to all her sons and daughters;
5 but to Hannah he gave a double portion,
because he loved her,
though the Lord had closed her womb.
6 Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her,
because the Lord had closed her womb.

7 So it went on year by year;
as often as she went up to the house of the Lord,
she used to provoke her.
Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.
8 Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep?
Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad?
Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116.12-13, 14+17, 18-19 (R.17)

R. To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times.)

12 What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord. ***R.***

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord. ***R.***

18 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
19 in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 1.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The kingdom of God is near:
repent and believe the good news!

GOSPEL

Mark 1.14-20

Repent and believe in the good news.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 Now after John was arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news
15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news.”

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea,
for they were fishermen.
17 And Jesus said to them,
“Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.”
18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ➢

19 As he went a little farther,
he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
who were in their boat mending the nets.
20 Immediately he called them;
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men,
and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

306 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 1.9-20

The Lord showed favour to Hannah and she bore a son.

A reading from the book of Samuel.

Elkanah, his wives and children offered sacrifice
at the temple in Shiloh,
and then sat down to eat the sacrificial meal.
9 After they had eaten and drunk,
Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord.
Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat
beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord.
10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord,
and wept bitterly.
11 She made this vow:
"O Lord of hosts,
if only you will look on the misery of your servant,
and remember me, and not forget your servant,
but will give to your servant a male child,
then I will set him before you as a nazirite
until the day of his death.
He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants,
and no razor shall touch his head."

12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth.
13 Hannah was praying silently;
only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard;
therefore Eli thought she was drunk.
14 So Eli said to her,
"How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself?
Put away your wine."

15 But Hannah answered,
"No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled;
I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink,
but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.
16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman,
for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation
all this time."

17 Then Eli answered, "Go in peace;
the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him."
18 And she said, "Let your servant find favour in your sight."
Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband,
and her countenance was sad no longer.

19 They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the Lord;
then they went back to their house at Ramah.
Elkanah knew his wife Hannah,
and the Lord remembered her.
20 In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son.
She named him Samuel,
for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R.1)

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Thessalonians 2.13

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Receive this message not as human words,
but as truly the word of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.21-28

Jesus taught them as one having authority.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

21 Jesus and the disciples went to Capernaum;
and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.
22 The people were astounded at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,
24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying,
"Be silent, and come out of him!"
26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice,
came out of him.

27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another,
"What is this? A new teaching—with authority!
He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

28 At once Jesus' fame began to spread
throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

307 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 3.1-10, 19-20

Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

At the temple in Shiloh,
1 the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli.
The word of the Lord was rare in those days;
visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli,
whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see,
was lying down in his room;
3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord,
where the ark of God was.
4 Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!"
and he said, "Here I am!"
5 and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."
But he said, "I did not call; lie down again."
So Samuel went and lay down.

6 The Lord called again, "Samuel!"
Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me."
But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord,
and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 The Lord called Samuel again, a third time.
And he got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me."
Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy.
9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel,
"Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say,
"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there,
calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ➢

19 As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him
and let none of his words fall to the ground.
20 And all Israel from Daniel to Beer-sheba
knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.1+4, 6-7a, 7b-8, 9 (R.7-8)

R. Here am I, Lord, I come to do your will.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
4 Happy are those
who make the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods. ***R.***

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.
7 Then I said, "Here I am." ***R.***

"In the scroll of the book it is written of me.
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord:
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.29-39

Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

29 As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue,
they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.
30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever,
and they told him about her at once.

31 Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up.
Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening, at sundown,
they brought to Jesus all who were sick or possessed with demons.
33 And the whole city was gathered around the door.
34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and cast out many demons;
and he would not permit the demons to speak,
because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark,
Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.
36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him.
37 When they found him, they said to him,
“Everyone is searching for you.”

38 Jesus answered, “Let us go on to the neighbouring towns,
so that I may proclaim the message there also;
for that is what I came out to do.”

39 And Jesus went throughout Galilee,
proclaiming the message in their synagogues
and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

308 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 4.1c-11

Israel was defeated; the ark of God was seized.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

1 In those days the Philistines mustered for war against Israel,
and Israel went out to battle against them;
they encamped at Ebenezer,
and the Philistines encamped at Aphek.
2 The Philistines drew up in line against Israel,
and when the battle was joined,
Israel was defeated by the Philistines,
who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle.
3 When the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said,
“Why has the Lord put us to rout today before the Philistines?
Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, ➢

so that he may come among us
and save us from the power of our enemies."

4 So the people sent to Shiloh,
and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts,
who is enthroned on the cherubim.
The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there
with the ark of the covenant of God.
5 When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp,
all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded.

6 When the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said,
"What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?"
When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come to the camp,
7 the Philistines were afraid;
for they said, "Gods have come into the camp."
They also said, "Woe to us!
For nothing like this has happened before.
8 Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods?
These are the gods who struck the Egyptians
with every sort of plague in the wilderness.
9 Take courage, and be men, O Philistines,
in order not to become slaves to the Hebrews
as they have been to you;
be men and fight."

10 So the Philistines fought;
Israel was defeated, and they fled, everyone to his home.
There was a very great slaughter,
for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.
11 The ark of God was captured;
and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 44.9-10, 13-14, 23-24 (R.26)

R. Save us Lord, in your mercy.

9 You have rejected us and abased us, O God,
and have not gone out with our armies.
10 You made us turn back from the foe,
and our enemies have taken the spoils. ***R.***

You have made us the taunt of our neighbours,
the derision and scorn of those around us.
14 You have made us a byword among the nations,
a laughingstock among the peoples. ***R.***

23 Rouse yourself! Why do you sleep, O Lord?
Awake, do not cast us off forever!
24 Why do you hide your face?
Why do you forget our affliction and oppression? ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Mark 1.40-45

The man with leprosy was made clean.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

40 A man with leprosy came to Jesus begging him,
and kneeling the man said to Jesus,
"If you choose, you can make me clean."
41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him,
and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!"
42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.
43 After sternly warning him he sent him away at once,
44 saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone;
but go, show yourself to the priest,
and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded,
as a testimony to them."
45 But the man went out and began to proclaim it freely,
and to spread the word,
so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly,
but stayed out in the country;
and people came to him from every quarter.

The gospel of the Lord.

309 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 8.4-7, 10-22a

You will cry out because of a king that you have chosen for yourselves.
But the Lord will not hear you.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

4 All the elders of Israel gathered together
and came to Samuel at Ramah,
5 and said to him,
"You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways;
appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations."
6 But the thing displeased Samuel
when they said, "Give us a king to govern us."
Samuel prayed to the Lord,
7 and the Lord said to Samuel,
"Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you;
for they have not rejected you,
but they have rejected me from being king over them."

10 So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord
to the people who were asking him for a king.
11 He said, "These will be the ways of the king
who will reign over you:
he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots
and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;
12 and he will appoint for himself
commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties,
and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest,
and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

13 "He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.
14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards
and give them to his courtiers.
15 He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards
and give it to his officers and his courtiers.
16 He will take your male and female slaves,
and the best of your cattle and donkeys,
and put them to his work.
17 He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.
18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king,
whom you have chosen for yourselves;
but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel;
they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us,
20 so that we also may be like other nations,
and that our king may govern us
and go out before us and fight our battles."

21 When Samuel had heard all the words of the people,
he repeated them in the ears of the Lord.
22 The Lord said to Samuel,
"Listen to their voice and set a king over them."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.15-16, 17-18 (R.1)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;
16 they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness. ***R.***

17 For you are the glory of their strength;
by your favour our horn is exalted.
18 For our shield belongs to the Lord,
our king to the Holy One of Israel. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 7.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.1-12

The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,
it was reported that he was at home.
2 So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them,
not even in front of the door;
and he was speaking the word to them.

3 Then some people came,
bringing to him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four of them. ➢

4 And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd,
they removed the roof above him;
and after having dug through it,
they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man who was paralyzed,
“Son, your sins are forgiven.”
6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there,
questioning in their hearts,
7 “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy!
Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

8 At once Jesus perceived in his spirit
that they were discussing these questions among themselves;
and he said to them,
“Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?
9 Which is easier,
to say to the one who was paralyzed, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’
or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’?
10 But so that you may know
that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”
—he said to the man who was paralyzed—
11 “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.”
12 And the man stood up, and immediately took the mat
and went out before all of them;
so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,
“We have never seen anything like this!”

The gospel of the Lord.

310 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 9.1-4, 17-19; 10.1a

Here is the man of whom the Lord spoke; Saul shall rule his people.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish
son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah,
a Benjaminite, a man of wealth.
2 He had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man.
There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he;
he stood head and shoulders above everyone else.

3 Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, had strayed.
So Kish said to his son Saul,
"Take one of the boys with you; go and look for the donkeys."
4 He passed through the hill country of Ephraim
and passed through the land of Shalishah,
but they did not find them.
And they passed through the land of Shaalim,
but they were not there.
Then he passed through the land of Benjamin,
but they did not find them.

17 When Samuel saw Saul,
the Lord told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you.
He it is who shall rule over my people."
18 Then Saul approached Samuel inside the gate, and said,
"Tell me, please, where is the house of the seer?"
19 Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer;
go up before me to the shrine, for today you shall eat with me,
and in the morning I will let you go
and will tell you all that is on your mind.

1 Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him;
he said, "The Lord has anointed you ruler over his people Israel.
You shall reign over the people of the Lord
and you will save them from the hand of their enemies all around."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 21.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1)

R. Lord, your strength gives joy to the king.

1 In your strength the king rejoices, O Lord,
and in your help how greatly he exults!
2 You have given him his heart's desire,
and have not withheld the request of his lips. ***R.***

3 For you meet him with rich blessings;
you set a crown of fine gold on his head.
4 He asked you for life; you gave it to him—
length of days forever and ever. ***R.***

5 His glory is great through your help;
splendour and majesty you bestow on him.
6 You bestow on him blessings forever;
you make him glad with the joy of your presence. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.13-17

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 Jesus went out beside the sea;
the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.
14 As he was walking along,
he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth,
and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him.

15 And as Jesus sat at dinner in Levi's house,
many tax collectors and sinners
were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples,
for there were many who followed him.

16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw
that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors,
they said to his disciples,
"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

17 When Jesus heard this, he said to them,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick do;
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

The gospel of the Lord.

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

311 MONDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 15.16-23

To obey is better than to offer sacrifice;
Because you rejected God's word God rejects you as king.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

16 Samuel said to Saul,
"Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night."
He replied, "Speak."
17 Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes,
are you not the head of the tribes of Israel?
The Lord anointed you king over Israel.
18 And the Lord sent you on a mission,
and said, 'Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites,
and fight against them until they are consumed.'
19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?
Why did you swoop down on the spoil,
and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?"

20 Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord,
I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me,
I have brought Agag the king of Amalek,
and I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
21 But from the spoil
the people took sheep and cattle,
the best of the things devoted to destruction,
to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

22 And Samuel said,
"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed than the fat of rams.
23 For rebellion is no less a sin than divination,
and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry.

"Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has also rejected you from being king."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50.8-9, 16bc-17, 21+23 (R.23)

R. I will show the salvation of God to those who do right.

8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
9 I will not accept a bull from your house,
or goats from your folds. ***R.***

16 What right have you to recite my statutes,
or take my covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you. ***R.***

21 These things you have done and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one just like yourself.
23 Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honour me;
to those who go the right way
I will show the salvation of God." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 4.12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of the heart.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.18-22

The bridegroom is with them.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

18 John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting;
and people came and said to Jesus,
"Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast,
but your disciples do not fast?"

19 Jesus said to them,
"The wedding guests cannot fast
while the bridegroom is with them, can they?
As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.
20 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
and then they will fast on that day.

21 "No one sews a piece of unshrunken cloth on an old cloak;
otherwise, the patch pulls away from it,
the new from the old,
and a worse tear is made.

22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins;
otherwise, the wine will burst the skins,
and the wine is lost,
and so are the skins;
but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

The gospel of the Lord.

312 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16.1-13

Samuel anointed David among his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

1 The Lord said to Samuel,
"How long will you grieve over Saul?
I have rejected him from being king over Israel.
Fill your horn with oil and set out;
I will send you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

2 Samuel said, "How can I go?
If Saul hears of it, he will kill me."
And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say,
'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'
3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice,
and I will show you what you shall do;
and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded,
and came to Bethlehem.
The elders of the city came to meet him trembling,
and said, "Do you come peaceably?"
5 He said, "Peaceably;
I have come to sacrifice to the Lord;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice."
And he sanctified Jesse and his sons
and invited them to the sacrifice.

➢

6 When they came, Samuel looked on Eliab and thought,
"Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord."
7 But the Lord said to Samuel,
"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature,
because I have rejected him;
for the Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel.
Samuel said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."
9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by.
And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."
10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel,
and Samuel said to Jesse,
"The Lord has not chosen any of these."

11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"
And he said, "There remains yet the youngest,
but he is keeping the sheep."
And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him;
for we will not sit down until he comes here."
12 He sent and brought him in.
Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."
13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil,
and anointed him in the presence of his brothers;
and the spirit of the Lord
came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.19, 20-21, 26-27 (R.20)

R. I have found David, my servant.

19 You spoke in a vision
to your faithful one, and said:
"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people." ***R.***

20

"I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
21 my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him." ***R.***

26 He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"
27 I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 1.17-18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

GOSPEL

Mark 2.23-28

The sabbath was made for people and not people for the sabbath.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

23 One sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through the grainfields;
and as they made their way
his disciples began to pluck heads of grain.
24 The Pharisees said to him,
"Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?"

25 And Jesus said to them,
"Have you never read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food?
26 He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest,
and ate the bread of the Presence,
which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat,
and he gave some to his companions."

27 Then Jesus said to them,
"The sabbath was made for people,
and not people for the sabbath;
28 so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

The gospel of the Lord.

313 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 17.32-33, 37, 40-51

David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Philistines gathered their armies for battle
and encamped opposite the Israelites.
And there came out of the Philistine camp a champion named Goliath,
who challenged the Israelites to choose a man to fight him.

All the Israelites, when they saw Goliath,
fled from him and were very much afraid.
32 David said to Saul, “Let no one’s heart fail because of him;
your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”
33 Saul said to David,
“You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him;
for you are just a boy,
and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

37 David said, “The Lord, who saved me
from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear,
will save me from the hand of this Philistine.”
So Saul said to David,
“Go, and may the Lord be with you!”

40 Then he took his staff in his hand,
and chose five smooth stones from the wadi,
and put them in his shepherd’s bag, in the pouch;
his sling was in his hand,
and he drew near to the Philistine.
41 The Philistine came on and drew near to David,
with his shield-bearer in front of him.
42 When the Philistine looked and saw David,
he disdained him, for he was only a youth,
ruddy and handsome in appearance.

43 The Philistine said to David,
“Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?”
And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.
44 The Philistine said to David, “Come to me,
and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air
and to the wild animals of the field.”

45 But David said to the Philistine,
“You come to me with sword and spear and javelin;

but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts,
the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

46 "This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand,
and I will strike you down and cut off your head;
and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day
to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth,
so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,
47 and that all this assembly may know
that the Lord does not save by sword and spear;
for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand."

48 When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David,
David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.
49 David put his hand in his bag,
took out a stone, slung it,
and struck the Philistine on his forehead;
the stone sank into his forehead,
and he fell face down on the ground.

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone,
striking down the Philistine and killing him;
there was no sword in David's hand.
51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine;
he grasped the Philistine's sword,
drew it out of its sheath, and killed him;
then he cut off his head with it.

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead,
they fled.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 144.1-2, 9-10 (R.1)

R. Blessed be the Lord, my rock.

1 Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
who trains my hands for war,
and my fingers for battle. ***R.***

2 my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues the peoples under me. ***R.***

9 I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,
10 the one who gives victory to kings,
who rescues his servant David. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.1-6

Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus entered the synagogue,
and a man was there who had a withered hand.
2 The Pharisees watched Jesus
to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath,
so that they might accuse him.

3 And Jesus said to the man who had the withered hand,
"Come forward."
4 Then he said to the Pharasees,
"Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath,
to save life or to kill?"
But they were silent.

5 Jesus looked around at them with anger;
he was grieved at their hardness of heart
and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."
He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

6 The Pharisees went out
and immediately conspired with the Herodians against Jesus,
how to destroy him.

The gospel of the Lord.

314 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 18.6-9; 19.1-7

My father Saul is trying to kill you.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

6 While the armies were coming home,
when David returned from killing the Philistine,
the women came out of all the towns of Israel, singing and dancing,
to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy,
and with musical instruments.
7 And the women sang to one another as they made merry,
"Saul has killed his thousands,
and David his ten thousands."

8 Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him.
He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands,
and to me they have ascribed thousands;
what more can he have but the kingdom?"
9 So Saul eyed David from that day on.

1 Saul spoke with his son Jonathan
and with all his servants about killing David.
But Saul's son Jonathan took great delight in David.
2 Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is trying to kill you;
therefore be on guard tomorrow morning;
stay in a secret place and hide yourself.
3 I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are,
and I will speak to my father about you;
if I learn anything I will tell you."
4 Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul, saying to him,
"The king should not sin against his servant David,
because he has not sinned against you,
and because his deeds have been of good service to you;
5 for he took his life in his hand when he attacked the Philistine,
and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel.
You saw it, and rejoiced;
why then will you sin against an innocent person
by killing David without cause?"

➢

6 Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan;
Saul swore, “As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death.”
7 So Jonathan called David and related all these things to him.
Jonathan then brought David to Saul,
and he was in his presence as before.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 56.1-2, 8-9ab, 9c-11, 12-13 (R.4)

R. In God I trust; I am not afraid.

1 Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
2 my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me. ***R.***

8 You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your record?
9 Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call. ***R.***

This I know, that God is for me.
10 In God, whose word I praise,
in the Lord, whose word I praise,
11 in God I trust; I am not afraid.
What can a mere mortal do to me? ***R.***

12 My vows to you I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.
13 For you have delivered my soul from death,
and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God
in the light of life. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Timothy 1.10b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.7-12

The unclean spirits shouted: "You are the Son of God." Jesus ordered them not to make him known.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea,
and a great multitude from Galilee followed him;
8 hearing all that he was doing,
they came to him in great numbers
from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan,
and the region around Tyre and Sidon.

9 Jesus told his disciples to have a boat ready for him
because of the crowd,
so that they would not crush him;
10 for he had cured many,
so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him.

11 Whenever the unclean spirits saw Jesus,
they fell down before him and shouted,
"You are the Son of God!"
12 But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

315 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 24.2-21

God forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

2 Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel,
and went to look for David and his men
in the direction of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.
3 He came to the sheepfolds beside the road, where there was a cave;
and Saul went in to relieve himself.
Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave.
4 The men of David said to him,
"Here is the day of which the Lord said to you,
'I will give your enemy into your hand,
and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.'" ➢

Then David went and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's cloak.
5 Afterward David was stricken to the heart
because he had cut off a corner of Saul's cloak.
6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid
that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed,
to raise my hand against him;
for he is the Lord's anointed."
7 So David scolded his men severely
and did not permit them to attack Saul.

Then Saul got up and left the cave, and went on his way.

8 Afterwards David also rose up and went out of the cave
and called after Saul, "My lord the king!"
When Saul looked behind him,
David bowed with his face to the ground, and did obeisance.
9 David said to Saul,
"Why do you listen to the words of those who say,
'David seeks to do you harm'?
10 This very day your eyes have seen
how the Lord gave you into my hand in the cave;
and some urged me to kill you, but I spared you.
I said, 'I will not raise my hand against my lord;
for he is the Lord's anointed.'

11 "See, my father, see the corner of your cloak in my hand;
for by the fact that I cut off the corner of your cloak,
and did not kill you,
you may know for certain
that there is no wrong or treason in my hands.
I have not sinned against you,
though you are hunting me to take my life.
12 May the Lord judge between me and you!
May the Lord avenge me on you;
but my hand shall not be against you.
13 As the ancient proverb says,
'Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness';
but my hand shall not be against you.
14 Against whom has the king of Israel come out?
Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A single flea?
15 May the Lord therefore be judge,
and give sentence between me and you.
May he see to it, and plead my cause,
and vindicate me against you."

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul,
Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?”
Saul lifted up his voice and wept.
17 He said to David,
“You are more righteous than I;
for you have repaid me good,
whereas I have repaid you evil.
18 Today you have explained how you have dealt well with me,
in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands.
19 For who has ever found an enemy,
and sent the enemy safely away?
So may the Lord reward you with good
for what you have done to me this day.
20 Now I know that you shall surely be king,
and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 57.1, 2-3, 5+10 (R.1)

R. Have mercy on me, God, have mercy.

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by. ***R.***

2 I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
3 He will send from heaven and save me,
he will put to shame those who trample on me.
God will send forth his steadfast love
and his faithfulness. ***R.***

5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.
10 For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 5.19

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.13-19

Jesus called the ones he wanted to be with him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 Jesus went up the mountain
and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him.
14 And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles,
to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message,
15 and to have authority to cast out demons.

16 So Jesus appointed the twelve:
Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);
17 James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James
(to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder);
18 and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew,
and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus,
and Simon the Zealot,
19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

316 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 1.1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27

How the mighty have fallen in the battle!

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 After the death of Saul,
when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites,
David remained two days in Ziklag.
2 On the third day, a man came from Saul's camp,
with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.
When he came to David, he fell to the ground and did obeisance.

3 David said to him, "Where have you come from?"
He said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."
4 David said to him, "How did things go? Tell me!"
He answered, "The army fled from the battle,
but also many of the army fell and died;
and Saul and his son Jonathan also died."

11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them;
and all the men who were with him did the same.

12 They mourned and wept, and fasted until evening
for Saul and for his son Jonathan,
and for the army of the Lord and for the house of Israel,
because they had fallen by the sword.

He said:
19 “Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!
23 Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

24 “O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson, in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

25 “How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!
Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.

26 “I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.

27 “How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 80.1-2, 4-6 (R.3)

R. O God, let us see your face that we may be saved.

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us! ***R.***

4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Acts 16.14b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.20-21

People were saying of Jesus: "He has lost his mind."

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and the disciples went home;
20 and the crowd came together again,
so that they could not even eat.
21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him,
for people were saying,
"He has gone out of his mind."

The gospel of the Lord.

Some may prefer to read the gospel in no. 255 or 325.

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

317 MONDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 5.1-7, 10

You shepherd my people Israel.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said,
"Look, we are your bone and flesh.
2 For some time, while Saul was king over us,
it was you who led out Israel and brought it in.
The Lord said to you:
It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel,
you who shall be ruler over Israel."
3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron;
and King David made a covenant with them
at Hebron before the Lord,
and they anointed David king over Israel.

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign,
and he reigned forty years.
5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months;
and at Jerusalem
he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

6 The king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites,
the inhabitants of the land, who said to David,
"You will not come in here,
even the blind and the lame will turn you back"—thinking,
"David cannot come in here."
7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion,
which is now the city of David.

10 And David became greater and greater,
for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.19, 20-21, 24-25 (R.24a)

R. My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him.

19 You spoke in a vision
to your faithful one, and said:
I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people. ***R.***

20 I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
21 my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him. ***R.***

24 My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his name shall be exalted.
25 I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Timothy 1.10b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.22-30

Satan's end has come.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

22 Some scribes who came down from Jerusalem said of Jesus,
"He has Beelzebul,
and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

23 And Jesus called them to him, and spoke to them in parables,
"How can Satan cast out Satan?
24 If a kingdom is divided against itself,
that kingdom cannot stand.
25 And if a house is divided against itself,
that house will not be able to stand.
26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided,
he cannot stand, but his end has come.
27 But no one can enter a strong man's house
and plunder his property
without first tying up the strong man;
then indeed the house can be plundered.

28 “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins
and whatever blasphemies they utter;
29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit
can never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an eternal sin”
30 For the Scribes had said, “Jesus has an unclean spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord.

318 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 6.12b-15, 17-19

David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of God’s covenant with rejoicing.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

12 David brought up the ark of God
from the house of Obed-edom
to the city of David with rejoicing;
13 and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces,
he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.
14 David danced before the Lord with all his might;
David was girded with a linen ephod.
15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord
with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

17 They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place,
inside the tent that David had pitched for it;
and David offered burnt offerings
and offerings of well-being before the Lord.

18 When David had finished offering the burnt offerings
and the offerings of well-being,
he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts,
19 and distributed food among all the people,
the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women,
to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins.
Then all the people went back to their homes.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.8a)

R. Who is this king of glory?
It is the Lord!

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. ***R.***

8 Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle. ***R.***

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. ***R.***

10 Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 3.31-35

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

31 The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to the house where he was
and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.
32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him,
“Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.”
33 And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?”
34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said,
“Here are my mother and my brothers!
35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

The gospel of the Lord.

319 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.1-17++

I will raise up your offspring after you and make his kingdom secure.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 When King David was settled in his house in Jerusalem,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
2 the king said to the prophet Nathan,
"See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent."
3 Nathan said to the king,
"Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5 Go and tell my servant David:
Thus says the Lord:
Are you the one to build me a house to live in?
6 I have not lived in a house
since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt
to this day,
but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.
7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel,
did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel,
whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel,
saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David:
Thus says the Lord of hosts:
I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep
to be prince over my people Israel;
9 and I have been with you wherever you went,
and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth.
10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel
and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place,
and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more,
as formerly,
11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies. ➢

Moreover the Lord declares to you
that the Lord will make you a house.
12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors,
I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.
13 He shall build a house for my name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.
When he commits iniquity,
I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use,
with blows inflicted by human beings.
15 But I will not take my steadfast love from him,
as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.
16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne shall be established forever.

17 In accordance with all these words and with all this vision,
Nathan spoke to David.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.3-4, 26-27, 28-29 (R.28)

R. For ever I will pledge my love for my servant.

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
4 I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations." ***R.***

26 He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"
27 I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth. ***R.***

28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm.
29 I will establish his line forever,
and his throne as long as the heavens endure. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.1-20

A sower went out to sow.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus began to teach beside the sea.
Such a very large crowd gathered around him
that he got into a boat on the water and sat there,
while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.
2 He began to teach them many things in parables,
and in his teaching he said to them:

3 "Listen! A sower went out to sow.
4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,
and the birds came and ate it up.
5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil,
and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil.
6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched;
and since it had no root, it withered away.

7 "Other seed fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked it,
and it yielded no grain.
8 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain,
growing up and increasing
and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."
9 And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

10 When Jesus was alone,
those who were around him along with the twelve
asked him about the parables.
11 And he said to them,
"To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God,
but for those outside, everything comes in parables;
12 in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive,
and may indeed listen, but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"

13 And Jesus said to them,
"Do you not understand this parable?
Then how will you understand all the parables?

14 "The sower sows the word.
15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown:
when they hear, Satan immediately comes
and takes away the word that is sown in them.

➢

16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground:
when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy.
17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while;
then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word,
immediately they fall away.

18 “And others are those sown among the thorns:
these are the ones who hear the word,
19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth,
and the desire for other things come in and choke the word,
and it yields nothing.
20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil:
they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit,
thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

The gospel of the Lord.

320 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.18-19, 24-29

Who am I, Lord God, and what is my house?

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

After the prophet Nathan had proclaimed to David the promises of God,
18 King David went in and sat before the Lord, and said,
“Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house,
that you have brought me thus far?
19 And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God;
you have spoken also of your servant’s house
for a great while to come.
May this be instruction for the people, O Lord God!
24 And you established your people Israel for yourself
to be your people forever;
and you, O Lord, became their God.

25 “And now, O Lord God,
as for the word that you have spoken
concerning your servant and concerning his house,
confirm it forever;
do as you have promised.
26 Thus your name will be magnified forever in the saying,
‘The Lord of hosts is God over Israel’;

and the house of your servant David
will be established before you.

27 "For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel,
have made this revelation to your servant, saying,
'I will build you a house';
therefore your servant has found courage
to pray this prayer to you.

28 "And now, O Lord God, you are God,
and your words are true,
and you have promised this good thing to your servant;
29 now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant,
so that it may continue forever before you;
for you, O Lord God, have spoken,
and with your blessing
shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 132.1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14 (R. Lk 1.32b)

R. God will give him
the throne of David, his father.

1 O Lord, remember in David's favour
all the hardships he endured;
2 how he swore to the Lord
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob. ***R.***

3 I will not enter my house
or get into my bed;
4 I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
5 until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob. ***R.***

11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:
"One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne." ***R.***

12 "If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, forevermore,
shall sit on your throne." ***R.***

13 For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his habitation:
14 "This is my resting place forever;
here I will reside, for I have desired it." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 119.105

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.21-25

A lamp is to be placed on a lampstand.
The measure you give will be the measure you get.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

21 Jesus told this parable to the disciples,
"Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket,
or under the bed, and not on the lampstand?
22 For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed;
nor is anything secret, except to come to light.
23 Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

24 And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear;
the measure you give will be the measure you get,
and still more will be given you.
25 For to those who have, more will be given;
and from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away."

The gospel of the Lord.

321 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 11.1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17

You defied me and took Uriah's wife as your own.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 In the spring of the year,
the time when kings go out to battle,
David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him;
they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah.
But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch
and was walking about on the roof of the king's house,
that he saw from the roof a woman bathing;
the woman was very beautiful.
3 David sent someone to inquire about the woman.
It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam,
the wife of Uriah the Hittite."
4 So David sent messengers to get her,
and she came to him, and he lay with her.

5 The woman conceived;
and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."
6 So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite."
And Joab sent Uriah to David.
7 When Uriah came to him,
David asked how Joab and the people fared,
and how the war was going.
8 Then David said to Uriah,
"Go down to your house, and wash your feet."
Uriah went out of the king's house,
and there followed him a present from the king.
9 But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house
with all the servants of his lord,
and did not go down to his house.
10 The servants told David,
"Uriah did not go down to his house." ➢

On the next day,
13 David invited Uriah to eat and drink in his presence
and made him drunk;
and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch
with the servants of his lord,
but he did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab,
and sent it by the hand of Uriah.
15 In the letter he wrote,
"Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting,
and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."
16 As Joab was besieging the city,
he assigned Uriah
to the place where he knew there were valiant warriors.
17 The men of the city came out and fought with Joab;
and some of the servants of David among the people fell.
Uriah the Hittite was killed as well.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51.1-2, 3-4a, 4bc-5, 8-9 (R.1a+4a)

R. Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. ***R.***

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight. ***R.***

That you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
5 Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me. ***R.***

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little one the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.26-34

Someone scatters seed on the ground and it grows even while the sower is asleep.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

26 Jesus told the people a parable,
"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,
27 and would sleep and rise night and day,
and the seed would sprout and grow,
without the sower knowing how.
28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk,
then the head, then the full grain in the head.
29 But when the grain is ripe,
at once he goes in with his sickle,
because the harvest has come."

30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God,
or what parable will we use for it?
31 It is like a mustard seed,
which, when sown upon the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;
32 yet when it is sown it grows up
and becomes the greatest of all shrubs,
and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them,
as they were able to hear it;
34 he did not speak to them except in parables,
but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

322 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 12.1-7a, 10-17

David said: I have sinned against the Lord.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

David did what displeased the Lord,
1 so the Lord sent Nathan to David.
Nathan came to him, and said to David,
"There were two men in a certain city,
the one rich and the other poor.
2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds;
3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb,
which he had bought.
He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children;
it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup,
and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.

4 Now there came a traveller to the rich man,
and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd
to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him,
but he took the poor man's lamb,
and prepared that for the guest who had come to him."

5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man.
He said to Nathan,
"As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die;
6 he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing,
and because he had no pity."

7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man!
10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house,
for you have despised me,
and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

11 "Thus says the Lord:
I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house;
and I will take your wives before your eyes,
and give them to your neighbour,
and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun.
12 For you did it secretly;
but I will do this thing before all Israel,
and before the sun."

13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."
Nathan said to David, "Now the Lord has put away your sin;
you shall not die.
14 Nevertheless,
because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord,
the child that is born to you shall die."
15 Then Nathan went to his house.
The Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David,
and it became very ill.
16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child;
David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground.
17 The elders of his house stood beside him,
urging him to rise from the ground;
but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51.10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (R.10a)

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me. ***R.***

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you. ***R.***

14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

GOSPEL

Mark 4.35-41

Who is this, that the wind and the sea obey him?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

All day long, Jesus had spoken to the crowd in parables.

35 When evening had come,
Jesus said to the disciples,
"Let us go across to the other side."
36 And leaving the crowd behind,
they took him with them in the boat, just as he was.
Other boats were with him.

37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat,
so that the boat was already being swamped.
38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;
and they woke him up and said to him,
"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"
39 Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind,
and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"
Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid?
Have you still no faith?"
41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,
"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The gospel of the Lord.

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

323 MONDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 15.13-14, 30; 16.5-13a

Let us get away from Absalom.
Leave Shimei alone, he was sent to curse by God's bidding.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

13 A messenger came to David, saying,
"The hearts of the Israelites have gone after Absalom."
14 Then David said to all his officials who were with him at Jerusalem,
"Get up! Let us flee,
or there will be no escape for us from Absalom.
Hurry, or he will soon overtake us, and bring disaster down upon us,
and attack the city with the edge of the sword."

30 But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives,
weeping as he went,
with his head covered and walking barefoot;
and all the people who were with him covered their heads
and went up, weeping as they went.

5 When King David came to Bahurim,
a man of the family of the house of Saul came out
whose name was Shimei son of Gera;
he came out cursing.
6 He threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David;
now all the people and all the warriors were on his right
and on his left.
7 Shimei shouted while he cursed,
"Out! Out! Murderer! Scoundrel!
8 The Lord has avenged on all of you
the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned;
and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom.
See, disaster has overtaken you;
for you are a man of blood."

9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king,
"Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?
Let me go over and take off his head."
10 But the king said,
"What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah?
If he is cursing because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David,'
who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" ➢

11 David said to Abishai and to all his servants,
"My own son seeks my life;
how much more now may this Benjaminite!
Let him alone, and let him curse;
for the Lord has bidden him.
12 It may be that the Lord will look on my distress,
and the Lord will repay me with good
for this cursing of me today."
13 So David and his men went on the road.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 3.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.6)

R. Lord, rise up and save me.

1 O Lord, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
2 many are saying to me,
"There is no help for you in God." ***R.***

3 But you, O Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.
4 I cry aloud to the Lord,
and he answers me from his holy hill. ***R.***

5 I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.
6 I am not afraid of ten thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 7.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

GOSPEL

Mark 5.1-20

Come out of him, you unclean spirit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus and the disciples came to the other side of the sea,
to the country of the Gerasenes.
2 And when he had stepped out of the boat,
immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him.

3 He lived among the tombs;
and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain;
4 for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains,
but the chains he wrenched apart,
and the shackles he broke in pieces;
and no one had the strength to subdue him.
5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains
he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance,
he ran and bowed down before him;
7 and he shouted at the top of his voice,
"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?
I adjure you by God, do not torment me."
8 For he had said to him,
"Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"
9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"
He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many."
10 He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

11 Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding;
12 and the unclean spirits begged him,
"Send us into the swine; let us enter them."
13 So he gave them permission.
And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine;
and the herd, numbering about two thousand,
rushed down the steep bank into the sea,
and were drowned in the water.

14 The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country.
Then people came to see what it was that had happened.
15 They came to Jesus
and saw the demoniac sitting there,
clothed and in his right mind,
the very man who had had the legion;
and they were afraid.
16 Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac
and to the swine reported it.

17 Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighbourhood.
18 As he was getting into the boat,
the man who had been possessed by demons
begged him that he might be with him.

➢

19 But Jesus refused, and said to him,
"Go home to your friends,
and tell them how much the Lord has done for you,
and what mercy he has shown you."
20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis
how much Jesus had done for him;
and everyone was amazed.

The gospel of the Lord.

324 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 18.9-10, 14b, 24-26a, 30 - 19.3++

O Absalom, my son, would I had died instead of you.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

9 Absalom happened to meet the servants of David.
Absalom was riding on his mule,
and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak.
His head caught fast in the oak,
and he was left hanging between heaven and earth,
while the mule that was under him went on.
10 A man saw it, and told Joab,
"I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."

14 Joab took three spears in his hand,
and thrust them into the heart of Absalom.

24 Now David was sitting between the two gates.
The sentinel went up to the roof of the gate by the wall,
and when he looked up, he saw a man running alone.
25 The sentinel shouted and told the king.
The king said, "If he is alone, there are tidings in his mouth."
He kept coming, and drew near.
26 Then the sentinel saw another messenger running.

30 The king said to the first messenger,
"Turn aside, and stand here."
So he turned aside, and stood still.
31 Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said,
"Good tidings for my lord the king!
For the Lord has vindicated you this day,
delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you."

32

The king said to the Cushite,
"Is it well with the young man Absalom?"
The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king,
and all who rise up to do you harm,
be like that young man."

33 The king was deeply moved,
and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept;
and as he went, he said,
"O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!
Would I had died instead of you,
O Absalom, my son, my son!"

1 It was told to Joab,
"The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."
2 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the troops;
for the troops heard that day,
"The king is grieving for his son."
3 The troops stole into the city that day
as soldiers steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 86.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a)

R. Listen, Lord, and answer me.

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God. ***R.***

3 Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.
4 Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ***R.***

5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 8.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Christ bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.

GOSPEL

Mark 5.21-43

Young woman, I say to you, get up.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

21 When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side,
a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea.
22 Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came
and, when he saw him, fell at his feet
23 and begged him repeatedly,
"My little daughter is at the point of death.
Come and lay your hands on her,
so that she may be made well, and live."
24 So Jesus went with him.
And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

25 Now there was a woman
who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years.
26 She had endured much under many physicians,
and had spent all that she had;
and she was no better, but rather grew worse.
27 She had heard about Jesus,
and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,
28 for she said,
"If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well."
29 Immediately her haemorrhage stopped;
and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

30 Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him,
Jesus turned about in the crowd and said,
"Who touched my clothes?"
31 And his disciples said to him,
"You see the crowd pressing in on you;
how can you say, 'Who touched me?'"
32 He looked all around to see who had done it.
33 But the woman,
knowing what had happened to her,
came in fear and trembling,
fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.
34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well;
go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

35 While Jesus was still speaking,
some people came from the leader's house to say,
"Your daughter is dead.
Why trouble the teacher any further?"

36 But overhearing what they said,
Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue,
"Do not fear, only believe."
37 He allowed no one to follow him
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.
38 When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue,
Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.
39 When he had entered, he said to them,
"Why do you make a commotion and weep?
The child is not dead but sleeping."
40 And they laughed at him.

Then he put them all outside,
and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him,
and went in where the child was.
41 He took her by the hand and said to her,
"Talitha cum,"
which means, "Little girl, get up!"
42 And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about
(she was twelve years of age).
At this they were overcome with amazement.
43 Jesus strictly ordered them that no one should know this,
and told them to give her something to eat.

The gospel of the Lord.

325 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 24.2, 9-17

I alone have sinned; but these sheep of the flock, what have they done?

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

2 King David said to Joab
and the commanders of the army, who were with him,
"Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba,
and take a census of the people,
so that I may know how many there are."
9 Joab reported to the king
the number of those who had been recorded:
in Israel there were eight hundred thousand soldiers
able to draw the sword,
and those of Judah were five hundred thousand.

➢

10 But afterward, David was stricken to the heart
because he had numbered the people.
David said to the Lord,
"I have sinned greatly in what I have done.
But now, O Lord, I pray you, take away the guilt of your servant;
for I have done very foolishly."

11 When David rose in the morning,
the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad,
David's seer, saying,
12 "Go and say to David: Thus says the Lord:
Three things I offer you;
choose one of them, and I will do it to you."

13 So Gad came to David and told him;
he asked him,
"Shall three years of famine come to you on your land?
Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you?
Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land?
Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return
to the one who sent me."
14 Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress;
let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great;
but let me not fall into human hands."

15 So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel
from that morning until the appointed time;
and seventy thousand of the people died, from Dan to Beer-sheba.
16 But when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem
to destroy it,
the Lord relented concerning the evil,
and said to the angel who was bringing destruction among the people,
"It is enough; now stay your hand."
The angel of the Lord was then
by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 When David saw the angel who was destroying the people,
he said to the Lord,
"I alone have sinned, and I alone have done wickedly;
but these sheep, what have they done?
Let your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32.1-2, 5, 6, 7 (R. see 5c)

R. Lord, forgive the wrong I have done.

1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ***R.***

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. ***R.***

6 Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress,
the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ***R.***

7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me
with glad cries of deliverance. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.1-6

Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus came to his hometown,
and his disciples followed him.
2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,
and many who heard him were astounded.
They said, "Where did this man get all this?
What is this wisdom that has been given to him?
What deeds of power are being done by his hands!
3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,
and are not his sisters here with us?"
And they took offense at him.

4 Then Jesus said to them,
"Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown,
and among their own kin, and in their own house." ➢

5 And he could do no deed of power there,
except that he laid his hands on a few sick people
and cured them.
6 And he was amazed at their unbelief.
Then Jesus went about among the villages teaching.

The gospel of the Lord.

326 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 2.1-4, 10-12

I am going the way of all the earth; be strong, Solomon, be courageous.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

1 When David's time to die drew near,
he charged his son Solomon, saying:
2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth.
Be strong, be courageous,
3 and keep the charge of the Lord your God,
walking in his ways and keeping his statutes,
his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies,
as it is written in the law of Moses,
so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.
4 Then the Lord will establish his word that he spoke concerning me:
'If your heirs take heed to their way,
to walk before me in faithfulness
with all their heart and with all their soul,
there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.'"
10 Then David slept with his ancestors,
and was buried in the city of David.
11 The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years;
he reigned seven years in Hebron,
and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.
12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David;
and his kingdom was firmly established.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Chronicles 29.10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd (R.12b)

R. Lord, you are exalted over all.

10 Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of our ancestor Israel,
forever and ever. ***R.***

11 Yours, O Lord, are the greatness and the power,
the glory, the victory, and the majesty;
for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours. ***R.***

Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.
12 Riches and honour come from you. ***R.***

You rule over all.
In your hand are power and might;
and it is in your hand to make great
and to give strength to all. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 1.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The kingdom of God is near:
repent and believe the good news!

GOSPEL

Mark 6.7-13

Jesus began to send the twelve out two by two.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

7 Jesus called the twelve
and began to send them out two by two,
and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.
8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff;
no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;
9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

10 He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house,
stay there until you leave the place.
11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you,
as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet
as a testimony against them.”

12 So the twelve went out and proclaimed that all should repent.
13 They cast out many demons,
and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The gospel of the Lord.

327 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Sirach 47.2-11

David praised the Lord with all his heart and loved God.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

2 As the fat is set apart from the communion offering,
so David was set apart from the Israelites.
3 He played with lions as though they were young goats,
and with bears as though they were lambs of the flock.

4 In his youth did he not kill a giant,
and take away the people's disgrace,
when he whirled the stone in the sling
and struck down the boasting Goliath?
5 For he called on the Lord, the Most High,
and he gave strength to his right arm
to strike down a mighty warrior,
and to exalt the power of his people.
6 So they glorified him for the tens of thousands he conquered,
and praised him for the blessings bestowed by the Lord,
when the glorious diadem was given to him.
7 For he wiped out his enemies on every side,
and annihilated his adversaries the Philistines;
he crushed their power to our own day.

8 In all that he did he gave thanks to the Holy One, the Most High,
proclaiming his glory;
he sang praise with all his heart,
and he loved his Maker.
9 He placed singers before the altar,
to make sweet melody with their voices.
10 He gave beauty to the festivals,
and arranged their times throughout the year,
while they praised God's holy name,
and the sanctuary resounded from early morning.

11 The Lord took away his sins,
and exalted his power forever;
he gave him a covenant of kingship
and a glorious throne in Israel.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 18.30, 46+49, 50 (R.46)

R. Blessed be God my salvation!

30 This God—his way is perfect;
the promise of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all who take refuge in him. ***R.***

46 The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation.
49 For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the nations,
and sing praises to your name. ***R.***

50 Great triumphs he gives to his king,
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his descendants forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Luke 8.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.14-29

John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 King Herod heard of the miracles of Jesus,
for Jesus' name had become known.
Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead;
and for this reason these powers are at work in him."
15 But others said, "It is Elijah."
And others said, "It is a prophet,
like one of the prophets of old."
16 But when Herod heard of it, he said,
"John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."
17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John,
bound him, and put him in prison
on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife,
because Herod had married her.

18 For John had been telling Herod,
"It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."
19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him.
But she could not,
20 for Herod feared John,
knowing that he was a righteous and holy man,
and he protected him.

➢

When Herod heard John, he was greatly perplexed;
and yet he liked to listen to him.

21 But an opportunity came
when Herod on his birthday
gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers
and for the leaders of Galilee.
22 When the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced,
she pleased Herod and his guests;
and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish,
and I will give it."
23 And he solemnly swore to her,
"Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"
She replied, "The head of John the Baptist."
25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested,
"I want you to give me at once
the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

26 The king was deeply grieved;
yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests,
he did not want to refuse her.
27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard
with orders to bring John's head.
He went and beheaded him in the prison,
28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl.
Then the girl gave it to her mother.
29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body,
and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.

328 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3.4-13

Give your servant an understanding mind to govern your people.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

4 King Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there,
for that was the principal high place;
Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night;
and God said, “Ask what I should give you.”

6 And Solomon said,
“You have shown great and steadfast love
to your servant my father David,
because he walked before you in faithfulness,
in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you;
and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love,
and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

7 “And now, O Lord my God,
you have made your servant king in place of my father David,
although I am only a little child;
I do not know how to go out or come in.

8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.
9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind
to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil;
for who can govern this your great people?”

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.
11 God said to him,
“Because you have asked this,
and have not asked for yourself long life or riches,
or for the life of your enemies,
but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,
12 I now do according to your word.
Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind;
no one like you has been before you
and no one like you shall arise after you.
13 I give you also what you have not asked,
both riches and honour all your life;
no other king shall compare with you.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (R.12)

R. Lord, teach me your decrees.

9 How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments. ***R.***

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes. ***R.***

13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.30-34

Jesus had compassion on the crowd for they were like sheep without a shepherd.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After returning from their first mission,
30 the apostles gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and taught.
31 He said to them,
"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."
For many were coming and going,
and they had no leisure even to eat.
32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

33 Now many saw them going and recognized them,
and they hurried there on foot from all the towns
and arrived ahead of them.
34 As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd;
and he had compassion for them,
because they were like sheep without a shepherd;
and he began to teach them many things.

The gospel of the Lord.

FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

329 MONDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 8.1-7, 9-13

The priests brought the ark of the covenant into the most holy place and a cloud filled the house of the Lord.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

1 King Solomon assembled before him in Jerusalem
the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes,
the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites,
to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord
out of the city of David, which is Zion.
2 All the people of Israel assembled with King Solomon
at the festival in the month Ethanim,
which is the seventh month.
3 And all the elders of Israel came,
and the priests carried the ark.
4 So they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting,
and all the holy vessels that were in the tent;
the priests and the Levites brought them up.

5 King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel,
who had assembled before him,
were with him before the ark,
sacrificing so many sheep and oxen
that they could not be counted or numbered.
6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord
to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house,
in the most holy place,
underneath the wings of the cherubim.
7 For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark,
so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles.

9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone
that Moses had placed there at Horeb,
where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites,
when they came out of the land of Egypt.

➢

10 And when the priests came out of the holy place,
a cloud filled the house of the Lord,
11 so that the priests could not stand to minister
because of the cloud;
for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

12 Then Solomon said,
"The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
13 I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell in forever."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 132.1a+2b+4a+5a, 6+8, 9-10, 13-14 (R.8a)++

R. Lord, go up to the place of your rest!

1 O Lord, remember in David's favour,
2 how he vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
4 "I will not give sleep to my eyes
5 until I find a place for the Lord." ***R.***

6 We heard of the ark in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
8 Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might. ***R.***

9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.
10 For your servant David's sake
do not turn away the face of your anointed one. ***R.***

13 For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his habitation.
14 "This is my resting place forever;
here I will reside, for I have desired it." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL

Mark 6.53-56

All who touched Jesus' cloak were healed.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

53 Jesus and the disciples crossed over the lake
and came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.

54 When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him,
55 and rushed about that whole region
and began to bring the sick on mats
to wherever they heard Jesus was.
56 And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms,
they laid the sick in the marketplaces,
and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak;
and all who touched it were healed.

The gospel of the Lord.

330 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 8.22-23, 27-30

You said: "My name shall be there, that you may heed the prayer of your people Israel."

A reading from the first book of Kings.

On the day of the dedication of the temple,
22 King Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord
in the presence of all the assembly of Israel,
and spread out his hands to heaven.
23 He said, "O Lord, God of Israel,
there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants
who walk before you with all their heart.

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth?
Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you,
much less this house that I have built!
28 Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God,
heeding the cry and the prayer
that your servant prays to you today;
29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house,
the place of which you said,

➢

‘My name shall be there,’
that you may heed the prayer
that your servant prays toward this place.

30 “Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel
when they pray toward this place;
O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 84.2, 3, 4+9, 10 (R.1)

R. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, mighty God!

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God. ***R.***

3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ***R.***

4 Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.
9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed. ***R.***

10 For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 119.36a, 29b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Turn my heart to do your will;
teach me your law, O God.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.1-13

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 When the Pharisees and some of the scribes
who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus,
2 they noticed that some of his disciples
were eating with defiled hands,
that is, without washing them.
3 (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews,
do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands,
thus observing the tradition of the elders;
4 and when they come from the marketplace,
they do not eat unless they purify themselves
and there are also many other traditions that they observe,
the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus,
"Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders,
but eat with defiled hands?"
6 Jesus said to them,
"Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
'This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'
8 You abandon the commandment of God
and hold to human tradition."

9 Then Jesus said to them,
"You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God
in order to keep your tradition!
10 For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and,
'Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.'
11 But you say that if anyone tells father or mother,
'Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban'
(that is, an offering to God)—
12 then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother,
13 thus making void the word of God through your tradition
that you have handed on.
And you do many things like this."

The gospel of the Lord.

331 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 10.1-10

The Queen of Sheba observed all the wisdom of Solomon.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

1 When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon,
she came to test him with hard questions.

2 She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue,
with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones;
and when she came to Solomon,
she told him all that was on her mind.
3 Solomon answered all her questions;
there was nothing hidden from the king
that he could not explain to her.

4 When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon,
the house that he had built,
5 the food of his table,
the seating of his officials,
and the attendance of his servants,
their clothing, his valets,
and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord,
there was no more spirit in her.

6 So she said to the king,
"The report was true that I heard in my own land
of your accomplishments and of your wisdom,
7 but I did not believe the reports
until I came and my own eyes had seen it.
Not even half had been told me;
your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard.
8 Happy are your wives!
Happy are these your servants,
who continually attend you and hear your wisdom!
9 Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you
and set you on the throne of Israel!
Because the Lord loved Israel forever,
he has made you king to execute justice and righteousness."

10 Then she gave the king one hundred twenty talents of gold,
a great quantity of spices, and precious stones;
never again did spices come in such quantity
as that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 37.5-6, 30-31, 39-40 (R.30)

R. The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ***R.***

30 The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.
31 The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip. ***R.***

39 The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
40 The Lord helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 17.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.14-23

It is what comes out of a person's mouth that defiles.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 Jesus called the crowd and said to them,
"Listen to me, all of you, and understand:
15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile,
but the things that come out are what defile.
16 Let anyone with ears to hear, listen."

17 When Jesus had left the crowd and entered the house,
his disciples asked him about the parable. ➢

18 He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand?
Do you not see
that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile,
19 since it enters, not the heart but the stomach,
and goes out into the sewer?”
(Thus Jesus declared all foods clean.)

20 And he said,
“It is what comes out of a person that defiles.
21 For it is from within,
from the human heart, that evil intentions come:
fornication, theft, murder,
22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.
23 All these evil things come from within,
and they defile a person.”

The gospel of the Lord.

332 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 11.4-13

Since you have not kept my covenant, I will tear the kingdom from you, yet for the sake of David, I will give one tribe to your son.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

4 When Solomon was old,
his wives turned away his heart after other gods;
and his heart was not true to the Lord his God,
as was the heart of his father David.
5 For Solomon followed Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians,
and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.
6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord,
and did not completely follow the Lord,
as his father David had done.
7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh
the abomination of Moab,
and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites,
on the mountain east of Jerusalem.
8 He did the same for all his foreign wives,
who offered incense and sacrificed to their gods.

9 Then the Lord was angry with Solomon,
because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel,
who had appeared to him twice,
10 and had commanded him concerning this matter,
that he should not follow other gods;
but he did not observe what the Lord commanded.

11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon,
"Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant
and my statutes that I have commanded you,
I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant.
12 Yet for the sake of your father David
I will not do it in your lifetime;
I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
13 I will not, however, tear away the entire kingdom;
I will give one tribe to your son,
for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem,
which I have chosen."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 106.3-4, 6-7, 35-36, 37+40 (R.4a)++

R. Lord, remember us,
for the love you bear your people.

3 Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.
4 Remember me, O Lord, when you show favour to your people;
help me when you deliver them. ***R.***

6 Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity.
7 Our ancestors, did not consider your wonderful works;
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love. ***R.***

35 They mingled with the nations
and learned to do as they did.
36 They served their idols,
which became a snare to them. ***R.***

37 They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons.
40 Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people,
and he abhorred his heritage. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1.21

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Receive and submit to the word planted in you;
it can save your souls.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.24-30

Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

24 Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.
Yet he could not escape notice,
25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit
immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.
26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin.
She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

27 Jesus said to her, "Let the children be fed first,
for it is not fair to take the children's food
and throw it to the dogs."
28 But she answered him,
"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

29 Then he said to her,
"For saying that, you may go—
the demon has left your daughter."
30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed,
and the demon gone.

The gospel of the Lord.

333 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 11.29-32; 12.19

Israel was in rebellion against the house of David.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Jeroboam was very able,
and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious
he gave him charge over all the forced labour of the house of Joseph.

29 About that time, when Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem,
the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road.

Ahijah had clothed himself with a new garment.
The two of them were alone in the open country
30 when Ahijah laid hold of the new garment he was wearing
and tore it into twelve pieces.
31 He then said to Jeroboam: Take for yourself ten pieces;
for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel,
"See, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon,
and will give you ten tribes.
32 One tribe will remain his, for the sake of my servant David
and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen
out of all the tribes of Israel."

19 So Israel has been in rebellion
against the house of David to this day.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 81.9-10ab, 11-12, 13-14 (R.10a+8a)

R. I am the Lord, your God; hear my voice.

9 There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
10 I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ***R.***

11 But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels. ***R.***

13 O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
14 Then I would quickly subdue their enemies,
and turn my hand against their foes. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Acts 16.14b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

GOSPEL

Mark 7.31-37

Jesus made those who are deaf to hear and those who are mute to speak.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

31 Jesus returned from the region of Tyre,
and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee,
in the region of the Decapolis.
32 They brought to him a man who was deaf
and who had an impediment in his speech;
and they begged him to lay his hand on him.
33 Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd,
and put his fingers into his ears,
and he spat and touched his tongue.

34 Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to the man,
"Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened."
35 And immediately his ears were opened,
his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one;
but the more he ordered them,
the more zealously they proclaimed it.
37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying,
"He has done everything well;
he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The gospel of the Lord.

334 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

1 Kings 12.26-32; 13.33-34

Jeroboam made two calves of gold.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

Once Jeroboam had become king of ten of the tribes of Israel,
26 he said to himself,
"Now the kingdom may well revert to the house of David.
27 If this people continues to go up to offer sacrifices
in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem,
the heart of this people will turn again to their master,
King Rehoboam of Judah;
they will kill me and return to King Rehoboam of Judah."

28 So the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold.
He said to the people,
"You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough.
Here are your gods, O Israel,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."

29 He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.
30 And this thing became a sin,
for the people went to worship before the one at Bethel
and before the other as far as Dan.
31 He also made houses on high places,
and appointed priests from among all the people,
who were not Levites.

32 Jeroboam appointed a festival
on the fifteenth day of the eighth month
like the festival that was in Judah,
and he offered sacrifices on the altar;
so he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made.
And he placed in Bethel
the priests of the high places that he had made.

33 Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way,
but made priests for the high places again
from among all the people;
any who wanted to be priests he consecrated for the high places.
34 This matter became sin to the house of Jeroboam,
so as to cut it off
and to destroy it from the face of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 106.6-7a, 19-20, 21-22 (R.4a)

R. Lord, remember us,
for the love you bear your people.

6 Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.
7 Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt,
did not consider your wonderful works. ***R.***

19 They made a calf at Horeb
and worshipped a cast image.
20 They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass. ***R.***

21

They forgot God, their Saviour,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.4b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

No one lives by bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.1-10

The crowd ate and were filled.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 As there was a great crowd without anything to eat,
Jesus called his disciples and said to them,
2 "I have compassion for the crowd,
because they have been with me now for three days
and have nothing to eat.
3 If I send them away hungry to their homes,
they will faint on the way—
and some of them have come from a great distance."

4 His disciples replied,
"How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?"
5 He asked them, "How many loaves do you have?"
They said, "Seven."

6 Then Jesus ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground;
and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks
he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute;
and they distributed them to the crowd.
7 They had also a few small fish;
and after blessing them,
he ordered that these too should be distributed.

8 The crowd ate and were filled;
and they took up the broken pieces left over,
seven baskets full.
9 Now there were about four thousand people.
And Jesus sent them away.
10 And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples
and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

The gospel of the Lord.

SIXTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

335 MONDAY

FIRST READING

James 1.1-11

Your faith is tested to give you endurance, so that you may be fully mature believers.

A reading from the letter of James.

1 From James,
a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.

2 My brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy,
3 because you know
that the testing of your faith produces endurance;
4 and let endurance have its full effect,
so that you may be mature and complete,
lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God,
who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly,
and it will be given you.
6 But ask in faith, never doubting,
for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea,
driven and tossed by the wind;
7 for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way,
8 must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.
9 Let the believer who is lowly
boast in being raised up,
10 and the rich in being brought low,
because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field.
11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field;
its flower falls, and its beauty perishes.
It is the same way with the rich;
in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.67-68, 71-72, 75-76 (R.77a)

R. Be kind to me, Lord, and I shall live.

67 Before I was humbled I went astray,
but now I keep your word.
68 You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes. ***R.***

71 It is good for me that I was humbled,
so that I might learn your statutes.
72 The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces. ***R.***

75 I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right,
and that in faithfulness you have humbled me.
76 Let your steadfast love become my comfort
according to your promise to your servant. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.11-13

Why does this generation ask for a sign?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

11 The Pharisees came to Jesus and began to argue with him,
asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him.
12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said,
“Why does this generation ask for a sign?
Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.”
13 And he left them, and getting into the boat again,
he went across to the other shore.

The gospel of the Lord.

336 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

James 1.12-18

God tempts no one.

A reading from the letter of James.

12 Blessed is anyone who endures temptation.
Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life
that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

13 No one, when tempted, should say, “I am being tempted by God”;
for God cannot be tempted by evil
and he himself tempts no one.
14 But one is tempted by one’s own desire,
being lured and enticed by it;
15 then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin,
and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved.
17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift,
is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
18 In fulfilment of his own purpose
God gave us birth by the word of truth,
so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94.12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 (R.12a)

R. Happy are those you teach, O Lord.

12 Happy are those whom you discipline, O Lord,
and whom you teach out of your law,
13 giving them respite from days of trouble. ***R.***

14 For the Lord will not forsake his people;
he will not abandon his heritage;
15 For justice will return to the righteous,
and all the upright in heart will follow it. ***R.***

18 When I thought, “My foot is slipping,”
your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.
19 When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who love me, will keep my words,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.14-21

Beware the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After feeding the crowd, Jesus sent them away
and got into the boat with the disciples
to return to the other side of the lake.
14 Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread;
and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.
15 And Jesus cautioned them, saying, "Watch out—
beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod."
16 They said to one another, "It is because we have no bread."

17 And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them,
"Why are you talking about having no bread?
Do you still not perceive or understand?
Are your hearts hardened?
18 Do you have eyes, and fail to see?
Do you have ears, and fail to hear?
And do you not remember?
19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand,
how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?"
They said to him, "Twelve."

20 "And the seven for the four thousand,
how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?"
And they said to him, "Seven."
21 Then Jesus said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

The gospel of the Lord.

337 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

James 1.19-27

Be doers of the word not merely hearers.

A reading from the letter of James.

19 You must understand this, my beloved:
let everyone be quick to listen,
slow to speak, slow to anger;
20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.
21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness
and rank growth of wickedness,
and welcome with meekness the implanted word
that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word,
and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.
23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers,
they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;
24 for they look at themselves and, on going away,
immediately forget what they were like.
25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty,
and persevere,
being not hearers who forget but doers who act—
they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious,
and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts,
their religion is worthless.
27 Religion that is pure and undefiled
before God, the Father, is this:
to care for orphans and widows in their distress,
and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 15.2-3ab, 3cd-4ab, 5 (R.2a+1b)

R. The just shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord.

2 Those who walk blamelessly,
and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
3 who do not slander with their tongue. ***R.***

Those who do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;
4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honour those who fear the Lord. ***R.***

Those who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
5 Those who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Ephesians 1.17-18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.22-26

The sight of the man who was blind was restored and he saw everything clearly.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

22 Jesus and the disciples came to Bethsaida.
Some people brought a man to Jesus who was blind
and begged Jesus to touch him.
23 Jesus took the man who was blind by the hand
and led him out of the village;
and when he had put saliva on his eyes
and laid his hands on him,
he asked him, “Can you see anything?”
24 And the man looked up and said,
“I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.”

25 Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again;
and the man looked intently and his sight was restored,
and he saw everything clearly.
26 Then Jesus sent the man away to his home, saying,
“Do not even go into the village.”

The gospel of the Lord.

338 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

James 2.1-9

Has not God chosen the poor? But you have dishonoured them.

A reading from the letter of James.

1 My brothers and sisters,
do you with your acts of favouritism
really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?
2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes
comes into your assembly,
and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,
3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes
and say, “Have a seat here, please,”
while to the one who is poor you say,
“Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,”
4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves,
and become judges with evil thoughts?

5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.
Has not God chosen the poor in the world
to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom
that he has promised to those who love him?
6 But you have dishonoured the poor.
Is it not the rich who oppress you?
Is it not they who drag you into court?
7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name
that was invoked over you?
8 You do well if you really fulfil the royal law
according to the scripture,
“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”
9 But if you show partiality,
you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.6)

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise ever on my lips.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.63b, 68b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

Mark 8.27-33

Peter answered: You are the Messiah. Jesus said: The Son of Man must suffer much.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

27 Jesus went with his disciples
to the villages of Caesarea Philippi;
and on the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist;
and others, Elijah;
and still others, one of the prophets."

29 Jesus asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah."
30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then Jesus began to teach them
that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering,
and be rejected by the elders,
the chief priests, and the scribes,
and be killed, and after three days rise again.
32 He said all this quite openly.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
33 But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter
and said, "Get behind me, Satan!
For you are setting your mind not on divine things
but on human things."

The gospel of the Lord.

339 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

James 2.14-24, 26

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.

A reading from the letter of James.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if you say you have faith but do not have works?
Can faith save you?
15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,
16 and one of you says to them,
"Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,"
and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,
what is the good of that?
17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.
18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works."
Show me your faith apart from your works,
and I by my works will show you my faith.
19 You believe that God is one; you do well.
Even the demons believe—and shudder.
20 Do you want to be shown, you senseless person,
that faith apart from works is barren?

21 Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works
when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?
22 You see that faith was active along with his works,
and faith was brought to completion by the works.
23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says,
"Abraham believed God,
and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,"
and he was called the friend of God. ➢

24 You see that a person is justified by works
and not by faith alone.
26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is also dead.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1b)

R. Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.15b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me..

GOSPEL

Mark 8.34-38 - 9.1

Those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

34 Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,
“If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
35 For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake,
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.
36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world
and forfeit their life?
37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

38 "Those who are ashamed of me and of my words
in this adulterous and sinful generation,
of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed
when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

9 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you,
there are some standing here who will not taste death
until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

The gospel of the Lord.

340 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

James 3.1-10

No one can tame the tongue.

A reading from the letter of James.

1 Not many of you should become teachers,
my brothers and sisters,
for you know that we who teach
will be judged with greater strictness.

2 For all of us make many mistakes.
Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect,
able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.
3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us,
we guide their whole bodies.
4 Or look at ships:
though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them,
yet they are guided by a very small rudder
wherever the will of the pilot directs.

5 So also the tongue is a small member,
yet it boasts of great exploits.
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!
6 And the tongue is a fire.
The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity;
it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature,
and is itself set on fire by hell.
7 For every species of beast and bird,
of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed
and has been tamed by the human species,
8 but no one can tame the tongue—
a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

➢

9 With it we bless the Lord and Father,
and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.
10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.
My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 12.1-2, 3-4, 6-7 (R.8a)

R. You will protect us, Lord.

1 Help us, O Lord, for there is no longer anyone who is godly;
the faithful have disappeared from humanity.
2 They utter lies to each other;
with flattering lips and a double heart they speak. ***R.***

3 May the Lord cut off all flattering lips,
the tongue that makes great boasts,
4 those who say, "With our tongues we will prevail;
our lips are our own—who is our master?" ***R.***

6 The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure,
silver refined in a furnace on the ground,
purified seven times.
7 You, O Lord, will protect us;
you will guard us from this generation forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Mark 9.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.2-13

Jesus was transfigured before the three disciples.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

2 Jesus took with him Peter and James and John,
and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves.
And he was transfigured before them,
3 and his clothes became dazzling white,
such as no one on earth could bleach them.

4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses,
who were talking with Jesus.

5 Then Peter said to Jesus,
"Rabbi, it is good for us to be here;
let us make three tents
one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
6 Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

7 Then a cloud overshadowed them,
and from the cloud there came a voice,
"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
8 Suddenly when they looked around,
they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain,
he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen,
until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.
10 So they kept the matter to themselves,
questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

11 Then they asked him,
"Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"
12 Jesus said to them,
"Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things.
How then is it written about the Son of Man,
that he is to go through many sufferings
and be treated with contempt?
13 But I tell you that Elijah has come,
and they did to him whatever they pleased,
as it is written about him."

The gospel of the Lord.

SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

341 MONDAY

FIRST READING

James 3.13-18

If you have selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast.

A reading from the letter of James.

Brothers and sisters,
13 who is wise and understanding among you?
Show by your good life
that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.
14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts,
do not be boastful and false to the truth.
15 Such wisdom does not come down from above,
but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.
16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition,
there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.
17 But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.
18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who make peace.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 14 (R.8a)

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

14 Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **2 Timothy 1.10b**

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL **Mark 9.14-29**

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

Jesus, Peter, James and John, came down the mountain
to rejoin the other disciples.
14 When they came to the disciples,
they saw a great crowd around them,
and some scribes arguing with them.
15 When the whole crowd saw Jesus,
they were immediately overcome with awe,
and they ran forward to greet him.

16 He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?”
17 Someone from the crowd answered him,
“Teacher, I brought you my son;
he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak;
18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down;
and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid;
and I asked your disciples to cast it out,
but they could not do so.”

19 Jesus answered them, “You faithless generation,
how much longer must I be among you?
How much longer must I put up with you?
Bring him to me.”
20 And they brought the boy to him.
When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy,
and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ➢

21 Jesus asked the father,
"How long has this been happening to him?"
And he said, "From childhood.
22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water,
to destroy him;
but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us."

23 Jesus said to him,
"If you are able!
—All things can be done for the one who believes."
24 Immediately the father of the child cried out,
"I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together,
he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it,
"You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing,
I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!"
26 After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out,
and the boy was like a corpse,
so that most of them said, "He is dead."
27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up,
and he was able to stand.

28 When Jesus had entered the house,
his disciples asked him privately,
"Why could we not cast it out?"
29 He said to them, "This kind can come out
only through prayer and fasting."

The gospel of the Lord.

342 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

James 4.1-10

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly.

A reading from the letter of James.

Beloved,
1 those conflicts and disputes among you,
where do they come from?
Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you?

2 You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder.
And you covet something and cannot obtain it;
so you engage in disputes and conflicts.
You do not have, because you do not ask.
3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly,
in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

4 Adulterers!
Do you not know that friendship with the world
is enmity with God?
Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world
becomes an enemy of God.
5 Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says,
"God yearns jealously for the spirit
that he has made to dwell in us"?
6 But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says,
"God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble."

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you sinners,
and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Lament and mourn and weep.
Let your laughter be turned into mourning
and your joy into dejection.
10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 55.6-7, 8-9a, 9b-10, 22 (R.22a)

R. Throw your cares on the Lord,
and the Lord will support you.

6 O that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest;
7 truly, I would flee far away;
I would lodge in the wilderness. ***R.***

8 I would hurry to find a shelter for myself
from the raging wind and tempest.
9 Confuse, O Lord,
confound their speech. ***R.***

For I see violence and strife in the city.
10 Day and night they go around it on its walls;
and iniquity and trouble are within it. ***R.***

22 Cast your burden on the Lord,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Galatians 6.14

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.30-37

The Son of Man is betrayed. Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

30 Jesus and the disciples passed through Galilee.
He did not want anyone to know it;
31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them,
"The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands,
and they will kill him,
and three days after being killed, he will rise again."
32 But they did not understand what he was saying
and were afraid to ask him.

33 Then they came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house Jesus asked them,
"What were you arguing about on the way?"
34 But they were silent, for on the way
they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

35 Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."
36 Then he took a little child and put it among them;
and taking it in his arms, he said to them,
37 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me
welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

343 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

James 4.13-17

You do not even know what tomorrow will bring.
For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

A reading from the letter of James.

13 Come now, you who say,
"Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town
and spend a year there,
doing business and making money."
14 Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring.
What is your life?
For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.
15 Instead you ought to say,
"If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that."
16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance;
all such boasting is evil.
17 Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do
and fails to do it, commits sin.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 49.1-2, 5-6, 7-9, 10+13 (R. Mt 5.3)

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

1 Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
2 both low and high,
rich and poor together. ***R.***

5 Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
6 those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches? ***R.***

7 Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,
there is no price one can give to God for it.
8 For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice
9 that one should live on forever and never see the grave. ***R.***

10 When we look at the wise, they die;
and leave their wealth to others.
13 Such is the fate of the foolhardy,
the end of those who are pleased with their lot. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.38-40

Whoever is not against us, is for us.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

38 John, one of the disciples, said to Jesus,
"Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name,
and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him;
for no one who does a deed of power in my name
will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.
40 Whoever is not against us is for us."

The gospel of the Lord.

344 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

James 5.1-6

***The wages you kept back from labourers by fraud cry out,
and their cries reach the ears of the Lord.***

A reading from the letter of James.

1 Come now, you rich people,
weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you.

2 Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten.
3 Your gold and silver have rusted,
and their rust will be evidence against you,
and it will eat your flesh like fire.
You have laid up treasure for the last days.

4

Listen!
The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields,
which you kept back by fraud, cry out,
and the cries of the harvesters
have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure;
you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

6 You have condemned and murdered the righteous one,
who does not resist you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 49.13-14ab, 14cd-15, 16-17, 18-19 (R. Mt 5.3)

R. Blessed are the poor in spirit,
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

13 Such is the fate of the foolhardy,
the end of those who are pleased with their lot.
14 Like sheep they are bound to die;
Death shall be their shepherd. ***R.***

Straight to the grave they descend,
and their form shall waste away;
15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol,
for he will receive me. ***R.***

16 Do not be afraid when some become rich,
when the wealth of their houses increases.
17 For when they die they will carry nothing away;
their wealth will not go down after them. ***R.***

18 Though in their lifetime they count themselves happy
—for you are praised when you do well for yourself—
19 they will go to the company of their ancestors,
who will never again see the light. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Thessalonians 2.13

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Receive this message not as human words,
but as truly the word of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 9.41-50

It is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

41 Jesus said to the disciples:
"Truly I tell you,
whoever gives you a cup of water to drink
because you bear the name of Christ
will by no means lose the reward.

42 "If any of you put a stumbling block
before one of these little ones who believe in me,
it would be better for you
if a great millstone were hung around your neck
and you were thrown into the sea.

43 "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off;
it is better for you to enter life maimed
than to have two hands and to go to hell,
to the unquenchable fire.
45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off;
it is better for you to enter life lame
than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.
47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out;
it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye
than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,
48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49 "For everyone will be salted with fire,
and every sacrifice will be salted with salt.
50 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness,
how can you restore it?
Have salt in yourselves,
and be at peace with one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

345 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

James 5.9-12

The Judge is standing at the doors.

A reading from the letter of James.

9 Beloved,
do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged.
See, the Judge is standing at the doors!

10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved,
take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
11 Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance.
You have heard of the endurance of Job,
and you have seen the purpose of the Lord,
how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

12 Above all, my beloved, do not swear,
either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath,
but let your "Yes" be yes and your "No" be no,
so that you may not fall under condemnation.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12 (R.8a)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

3 It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. ***R.***

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever. ***R.***

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 17.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.1-12

What God has joined together, let no one separate.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus continued his journey
and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan.
And crowds again gathered around him;
and, as was his custom, he again taught them.

2 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"
3 Jesus answered them, "What did Moses command you?"

4 They said,
"Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal
and to divorce her."
5 But Jesus said to them,
"Because of your hardness of heart
he wrote this commandment for you.
6 But from the beginning of creation,
'God made them male and female.'
7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
8 and the two shall become one flesh.'
So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
9 Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

10 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.
11 Jesus said to them,
"Whoever divorces his wife and marries another
commits adultery against her;
12 and if she divorces her husband and marries another,
she commits adultery."

The gospel of the Lord.

346 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

James 5.13-20

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

A reading from the letter of James.

13 My brothers and sisters,
are any among you suffering?
They should pray.
Are any cheerful?
They should sing songs of praise.

14 Are any among you sick?
They should call for the elders of the church
and have them pray over them,
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.
15 The prayer of faith will save the sick,
and the Lord will raise them up;
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to one another,
and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.
The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being like us,
and he prayed fervently that it might not rain,
and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.
18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain
and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters,
if anyone among you wanders from the truth
and is brought back by another,
20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering
will save the sinner's soul from death
and will cover a multitude of sins.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 141.1-2, 3+8 (R.2a)

R. Let my prayer come like incense before you.

1 I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.
2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. ***R.***

3 Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord;
keep watch over the door of my lips.
8 But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord;
in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenceless. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.13-16

Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child,will never enter it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus
in order that he might touch them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.
14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them,
"Let the little children come to me;
do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
15 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God
as a little child will never enter it."

16 And Jesus took the children up in his arms,
laid his hands on them,
and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord.

EIGHTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

347 MONDAY

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1.3-9

You have not seen Christ, yet you believe in him, and believing, you rejoice with indescribable joy.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead:
4 a birth into an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you,
5 who are being protected by the power of God through faith
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you rejoice,
even if now for a little while
you have had to suffer various trials,
7 so that the genuineness of your faith
—being more precious than gold that,
though perishable, is tested by fire—
may be found to result in praise and glory and honour
when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Although you have not seen him, you love him;
and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him
and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,
9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 111.1-2, 5-6, 9+10c (R.5b)

R. The Lord will remember his covenant for ever.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
2 Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them. ***R.***

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations. ***R.***

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
10 His praise endures forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 8.9

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.17-27

Go sell what you own and come follow me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

17 As Jesus was setting out on a journey,
a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him,
"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good?
No one is good but God alone.
19 You know the commandments:
'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery;
You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness;
You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'"

20 The man said to Jesus,
"Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."
21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,
"You lack one thing;
go, sell what you own,
and give the money to the poor,

and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me."
22 When he heard this, the man was shocked and went away grieving,
for he had many possessions.
23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
"How hard it will be for those who have wealth
to enter the kingdom of God!"
24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words.
But Jesus said to them again,
"Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches
to enter the kingdom of God!
25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another,
"Then who can be saved?"
27 Jesus looked at them and said,
"For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;
for God all things are possible."

The gospel of the Lord.

348 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1.10-16

The prophets foretold the grace that is yours; prepare your minds for action.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved,
10 the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours
made careful search and inquiry concerning this salvation,
11 inquiring about the person or time
that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated
when it testified in advance
to the sufferings and the subsequent glory destined for Christ.
12 It was revealed to the prophets
that they were serving not themselves but you,
in regard to the things that have now been announced to you
through those who brought you good news
by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven
—things into which angels long to look! ➢

13 Therefore prepare your minds for action;
discipline yourselves;
set all your hope on the grace
that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

14 Like obedient children,
do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance.
15 Instead, as he who called you is holy,
be holy yourselves in all your conduct;
16 for it is written,
"You shall be holy, for I am holy."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3c-4 (R.2a)

R. The Lord has made known his salvation.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Matthew 11.25

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.28-31

You will receive a hundredfold now in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

28 Peter began to say to Jesus,
"Look, we have left everything and followed you."
29 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you,
there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or fields,
for my sake and for the sake of the good news,
30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age
—houses, brothers and sisters,
mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—
and in the age to come eternal life.

31 "But many who are first will be last,
and the last will be first."

The gospel of the Lord.

349 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1.18-25

***You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ,
like that of a lamb without blemish.***

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Brothers and sisters,
18 you know that you were ransomed
from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors,
not with perishable things like silver or gold,
19 but with the precious blood of Christ,
like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.
20 He was destined before the foundation of the world,
but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.
21 Through him you have come to trust in God,
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,
so that your faith and hope are set on God.
22 Now that you have purified your souls
by your obedience to the truth
so that you have genuine mutual love,
love one another deeply from a pure heart.

➢

23 You have been born anew,
not of perishable but of imperishable seed,
through the living and enduring word of God.
24 For "All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord endures forever."

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147.12-13, 14-15, 19-20 (R.12a)

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you. ***R.***

14 He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
15 He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly. ***R.***

19 He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 10.45

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Son of Man came to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for all.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.32-45

We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

32 Jesus and the disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem,
and Jesus was walking ahead of them;
they were amazed,
and those who followed were afraid.
He took the twelve aside again
and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying,
33 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man
will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes,
and they will condemn him to death;
then they will hand him over to the Gentiles;
34 they will mock him, and spit upon him,
and flog him, and kill him;
and after three days he will rise again."

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
came forward to him and said to him,
"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."
36 And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"
37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit,
one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

38 But Jesus said to them,
"You do not know what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"
39 They replied, "We are able."

Then Jesus said to them,
"The cup that I drink you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am baptized,
you will be baptized;
40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant,
but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41 When the ten heard this,
they began to be angry with James and John.
42 So Jesus called them and said to them,
"You know that among the Gentiles
those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them,
and their great ones are tyrants over them. ➢

43 But it is not so among you;
but whoever wishes to become great among you
must be your servant,
44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.
45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The gospel of the Lord.

350 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

1 Peter 2.2-5, 9-12

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

2 Like newborn infants,
you should long for the pure, spiritual milk,
so that by it you may grow into salvation—
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone,
though rejected by mortals
yet chosen and precious in God’s sight,
5 and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God’s own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.
10 Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved,
I urge you as aliens and exiles
to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.

12 Conduct yourselves honourably among the Gentiles,
so that, though they malign you as evildoers,
they may see your honourable deeds
and glorify God when he comes to judge.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 100.1-2, 3, 4, 5 (R.2b)

R. Come with joy into the presence of the Lord.

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing. ***R.***

3 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ***R.***

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name. ***R.***

5 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8.12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL

Mark 10.46-52

My teacher, let me see again.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

46 Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho.
As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho,
Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, a blind beggar,
was sitting by the roadside.
47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,
he began to shout out and say,
"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet,
but he cried out even more loudly,
"Son of David, have mercy on me!" ➢

49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.”
And they called the man who was blind, saying to him,
“Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”
50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.
51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?”
The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”
52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.”
Immediately Bartimaeus regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way.

The gospel of the Lord.

351 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

1 Peter 4.7-13

Be good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

7 The end of all things is near;
therefore be serious
and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.
8 Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins.
9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining.
10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

11 Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God;
whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies,
so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.
To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved,
do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal
that is taking place among you to test you,
as though something strange were happening to you.
13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout for joy
when his glory is revealed.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.10, 11-12, 13 (R.13b)

R. The Lord comes to judge the earth.

10 Say among the nations, “The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.” ***R.***

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy. ***R.***

13 Rejoice before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord,
to go and bear fruit that will last.

GOSPEL

Mark 11.11-25

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. Have faith in God.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After his triumphant entry into Jerusalem,
11 Jesus went into the temple;
and when he had looked around at everything,
as it was already late,
he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

12 One day, when Jesus and the disciples came from Bethany,
he was hungry.
13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf,
he went to see whether he would find anything on it.
When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves,
for it was not the season for figs.
14 He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.”
And his disciples heard it.

15 Then they came to Jerusalem.
And he entered the temple
and began to drive out those who were selling
and those who were buying in the temple,

➢

and he overturned the tables of the money changers
and the seats of those who sold doves;
16 and he would not allow anyone
to carry anything through the temple.

17 He was teaching and saying,
"Is it not written,
'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?
But you have made it a den of robbers."

18 And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it,
they kept looking for a way to kill him;
for they were afraid of him,
because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

19 And when evening came,
Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.
20 In the morning as they passed by,
they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.
21 Then Peter remembered and said to him,
"Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

22 Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God.
23 Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain,
'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,'
and if you do not doubt in your heart,
but believe that what you say will come to pass,
it will be done for you.
24 So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
25 "Whenever you stand praying,
forgive, if you have anything against anyone;
so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."

The gospel of the Lord.

352 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Jude 17-25++

The power of God can keep you from falling, and bring you without stain to the vision of God's glory.

A reading from the letter of Jude.

17 Beloved brothers and sisters,
you must remember the predictions
of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;
18 for they said to you,
"In the last time there will be scoffers,
indulging their own ungodly lusts."
19 It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit,
who are causing divisions.
20 But you, beloved,
build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit;
21 keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ
that leads to eternal life.
22 And have mercy on some who are wavering;
23 save others by snatching them out of the fire;
and have mercy on still others with fear,
hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish
in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,
25 to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
before all time and now and forever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 63.1, 2-3, 4-5 (R.1)

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1 O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ***R.***

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you. ***R.***

4 So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3.16a, 17c

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord,
and may the fullness of his message live within you.

GOSPEL

Mark 11.27-33

By what authority are you doing these things?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

27 Jesus and the disciples came to Jerusalem.
As he was walking in the temple,
the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Jesus
28 and said, “By what authority are you doing these things?
Who gave you this authority to do them?”

29 Jesus said to them,
“I will ask you one question;
answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.
30 Did the baptism of John come from heaven,
or was it of human origin?
Answer me.”

31 They argued with one another,
“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say,
‘Why then did you not believe him?’

32 But shall we say, ‘Of human origin’?”
—they were afraid of the crowd,
for all regarded John as truly a prophet.

33 So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.”
And Jesus said to them,
“Neither will I tell you by what authority
I am doing these things.”

The gospel of the Lord.

NINTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

353 MONDAY

FIRST READING

2 Peter 1.1-7

God has given us precious and very great promises, so we may become participants of the divine nature.

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
sends this letter to those who have received a faith as precious as ours
through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 May grace and peace be yours in abundance
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
3 His divine power has given us
everything needed for life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him who called us
by his own glory and goodness.
4 Thus he has given us, through these things,
his precious and very great promises,
so that through them you may escape from the corruption
that is in the world because of lust,
and may become participants of the divine nature.

5 For this very reason, you must make every effort
to support your faith with goodness,
and goodness with knowledge,
6 and knowledge with self-control,
and self-control with endurance,
and endurance with godliness,
7 and godliness with mutual affection,
and mutual affection with love.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 91.1-2, 14-15ab, 15c-16 (R. see 2b)

R. In you, my God, I place my trust.

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
2 will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust." ***R.***

14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble. ***R.***

I will rescue them and honour them.
16 With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 1.5ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead;
you have loved us and washed away our sins in your blood.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.1-12

The tenants seized the beloved son, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus began to speak to the high priests and the scribes in parables.
"A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it,
dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower;
then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.
2 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants
to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard.
3 But they seized him, and beat him,
and sent him away empty-handed.

4 "And again he sent another slave to them;
this one they beat over the head and insulted.
5 Then he sent another, and that one they killed.
And so it was with many others;
some they beat, and others they killed.

6 "He had still one other, a beloved son.
Finally he sent him to them, saying,
'They will respect my son.'
7 But those tenants said to one another,
'This is the heir;
come, let us kill him,
and the inheritance will be ours.'
8 So they seized him, killed him,
and threw him out of the vineyard.

9 "What then will the owner of the vineyard do?
He will come and destroy the tenants
and give the vineyard to others.

10 Have you not read this scripture:
'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
11 this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

12 When the high priests and the scribes
realized that Jesus had told this parable against them,
they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd.
So they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

354 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

2 Peter 3.12-15a, 17-18

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Beloved,
12 what sort of persons should you be
waiting for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved,
and the elements will melt with fire?
13 But, in accordance with his promise,
we wait for new heavens and a new earth,
where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things,
strive to be found by him at peace,
without spot or blemish;
15 and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.
17 You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned,
beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless
and lose your own stability.

18 But grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.
Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 90.2, 3-4, 10, 14+16 (R.1)

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God. ***R.***

3 You turn us back to dust, and say,
"Turn back, you mortals."
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night. ***R.***

10 The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away. ***R.***

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
16 Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

see Ephesians 1.17-18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.13-17

Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's,
and to God the things that are God's.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 Some Pharisees and some Herodians were sent to Jesus
to trap him in what he said.
14 And they came and said to him,
"Teacher, we know that you are sincere,
and show deference to no one;
for you do not regard people with partiality,
but teach the way of God in accordance with truth.
Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?
15 Should we pay them, or should we not?"
But knowing their hypocrisy, Jesus said to them,

“Why are you putting me to the test?
Bring me a denarius and let me see it.”
16 And they brought one.
Then he said to them,
“Whose head is this, and whose title?”
They answered, “The emperor’s.”

17 Jesus said to them,
“Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s,
and to God the things that are God’s.”
And they were utterly amazed at him.

The gospel of the Lord.

355 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

2 Timothy 1.1-3, 6-12

Rekindle the gift of God which is within you through the laying on of my hands.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

1 From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace
from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I am grateful to God
—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—
when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.
6 For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God
that is within you through the laying on of my hands;
7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice,
but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

8 Do not be ashamed, then,
of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner,
but join with me in suffering for the gospel,
relying on the power of God,
9 who saved us and called us with a holy calling,
not according to our works
but according to his own purpose and grace.
This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ➢

10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour
Christ Jesus, who abolished death
and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

11 For this gospel
I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher,
12 and for this reason I suffer as I do.
But I am not ashamed,
for I know the one in whom I have put my trust,
and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day
what I have entrusted to him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 123.1-2a, 2bcd (R.1)

R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.

1 To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
2 As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master. ***R.***

As the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 11.25, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.18-27

He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

18 Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection,
came to Jesus and asked him a question, saying,
19 “Teacher,
Moses wrote for us that,
‘if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child,
the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.’

20 “There were seven brothers;
the first married and, when he died, left no children;
21 and the second married her and died, leaving no children;
and the third likewise;
22 none of the seven left children.
Last of all the woman herself died.
23 In the resurrection whose wife will she be?
For the seven had married her.”

24 Jesus said to them,
“Is not this the reason you are wrong,
that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God?
25 For when they rise from the dead,
they neither marry nor are given in marriage,
but are like angels in heaven.

26 “And as for the dead being raised,
have you not read in the book of Moses,
in the story about the bush, how God said to him,
‘I am the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?

27 “He is God not of the dead, but of the living;
you are quite wrong.”

The gospel of the Lord.

356 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

2 Timothy 2.8-15

If we die with him, we shall also live with him.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

8 My dear brother, Timothy,
remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,
a descendant of David—
9 that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship,
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.
But the word of God is not chained.

10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,
so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
with eternal glory. ➢

11 The saying is sure:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

14 Remind them of this, and warn them before God
that they are to avoid wrangling over words,
which does no good but only ruins those who are listening.

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him,
a worker who has no need to be ashamed,
rightly explaining the word of truth.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25.4bc-5ab, 8-9, 10+14 (R.4)

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long. ***R.***

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. ***R.***

10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
14 The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See 2 Timothy 1.10

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.28-34

There is no other commandment greater than these.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

28 One of the scribes came near to Jesus and asked him,
"Which commandment is the first of all?"
29 Jesus answered, "The first is,
'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

31 "The second is this,
'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 Then the scribe said to him,
"You are right, Teacher;
you have truly said that 'he is one,
and besides him there is no other';
33 and 'to love him with all the heart,
and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,'
and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,'
—this is much more important
than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The gospel of the Lord.

357 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

2 Timothy 3.10-17

All who want to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

10 You have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life,
my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,
11 my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me
in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.
What persecutions I endured!
Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ➢

12 Indeed,
all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
13 But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse,
deceiving others and being deceived.
14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed,
knowing from whom you learned it,
15 and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings
that are able to instruct you for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient,
equipped for every good work.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.157+160, 161+165, 166+168 (R.165a)

R. Lord, great is the peace for those who love your law.++

or: O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,
yet I do not swerve from your decrees.
160 The sum of your word is truth;
and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever. ***R.***

161 Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your words.
165 Great peace have those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble. ***R.***

166 I hope for your salvation, O Lord,
and I fulfill your commandments.
168 I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.23

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.35-37

How can the Scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said,
"How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?
36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,
'The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet.'
37 David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?"
And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

The gospel of the Lord.

358 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

2 Timothy 4.1-8

Do the work of an evangelist. I am already being poured out as libation, and the Lord will give me the crown of righteousness.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,
I solemnly urge you:
2 proclaim the message;
be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage,
with the utmost patience in teaching.

3 For the time is coming
when people will not put up with sound doctrine,
but having itching ears,
they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires,
4 and will turn away from listening to the truth
and wander away to myths.

5 As for you, always be sober, endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.
6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come. ➢

7 I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day,
and not only to me
but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71.8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22 (R. see 15)

R. I will sing of your salvation.

8 My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all day long.
9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
do not forsake me when my strength is spent. ***R.***

14 But I will hope continually,
and will praise you yet more and more.
15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all day long. ***R.***

16 I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God,
I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.
17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ***R.***

22 I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5.3

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

GOSPEL

Mark 12.38-44

This poor widow has put in more than all the others.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

38 When Jesus was teaching the crowd, he said,
"Beware of the scribes,
who like to walk around in long robes,
and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,
39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues
and places of honour at banquets!
40 They devour widows' houses
and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.
They will receive the greater condemnation."

41 Jesus sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins,
which are worth a penny.

43 Then he called his disciples and said to them,
"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.
44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had,
all she had to live on."

The gospel of the Lord.

509 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – ORDINARY TIME

For the weekdays of Ordinary Time

These texts may be used in place of the texts proposed for each day.

1 Samuel 3.9; John 6.68c
Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the words of everlasting life.

See Psalm 19.9
Your words, O Lord, give joy to my heart,
your teaching is light to my eyes.

Psalm 25.4b, 5a
Teach me your paths, my God,
and lead me in your truth.

See Psalm 27.11
Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a straight road.

Psalm 95.8
If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

Psalm 111.7b-8a
Your laws are all made firm, O Lord,
established for evermore.

Psalm 119.18
Unveil my eyes, O Lord,
and I will see the marvels of your law.

Psalm 119.27
Instruct me in the way of your rules,
and I will reflect on all your wonders.

Psalm 119.34
Teach me the meaning of your law, O Lord,
and I will guard it with all my heart.

Psalm 119.36a, 29b
Turn my heart to do your will;
teach me your law, O God.

Psalm 119.88
Give me life, O Lord,
and I will do your commands.

Psalm 119.105
Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path.

Psalm 119.135
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

See Psalm 130.5
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.

Psalm 145.13cd
The Lord is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his deeds.

Psalm 147.12a, 15a
Jerusalem, praise the Lord,
who speaks and the word speeds forth to the earth.

Matthew 4.4b
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

See Matthew 11.25
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

See Luke 8.15
Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

See John 6.63c, 68c
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.

John 8.12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 10.27
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

John 14.6
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 14.23
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them.

John 15.15b
I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

See John 17.17b, a
Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

See Acts 16.14b
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

2 Corinthians 5.19
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

See Ephesians 1.17-18
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Philippians 2.15d, 16a
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

See Colossians 3.16a, 17c
Give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord,
and may the fullness of his message live within you.

See 1 Thessalonians 2.13
Receive this message not as human words,
but as truly the word of God.

See 2 Thessalonians 2.14
God has called us with the gospel,
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

See 2 Timothy 1.10
Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death
and brought us life through the gospel.

Hebrews 4.12
The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.

James 1.18
The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the firstfruits of his creation.

James 1.21bc
Receive and submit to the word planted in you.

1 Peter 1.25
The word of the Lord stands for ever;
it is the word given to you, the good news.

1 John 2.5
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Last Week in Ordinary Time:

Matthew 24.42a, 44
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Luke 21.28
Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.

Luke 21.36
Be watchful, pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man.

Revelation 2.10c
Be faithful until death, says the Lord,
and I will give you the crown of life.

THE SEASON OF LENT

WEEKDAYS OF LENT

WEEKDAYS OF LENT

219 ASH WEDNESDAY

When ashes are blessed outside the Eucharist, it is fitting that the liturgy of the word precede it.

FIRST READING

Joel 2.12-18

Rend your hearts and not your clothing.

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

12 "Even now," says the Lord,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.

"Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing."

14 Who knows whether the Lord will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him:
a grain offering and a drink offering
to be presented to the Lord, your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
16 gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children, even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

17 Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

18 Then the Lord became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51.1-2, 3-4a, 10-11, 12+15 (R.1a+4a)

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. ***R.***

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight. ***R.***

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me. ***R.***

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise. ***R.***

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5.20 - 6.2

Be reconciled to God, for now is the acceptable time.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

20 We are ambassadors for Christ,
since God is making his appeal through us;
we entreat you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.
21 For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.
1 As we work together with him,
we urge you also, not to accept the grace of God in vain.
2 For the Lord says,
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."
See, now is the acceptable time;
see, now is the day of salvation!

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 95.7-8

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-18

Your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples,
1 "Beware of practising your piety before others
in order to be seen by them;
for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "So whenever you give alms,
do not sound a trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,
so that they may be praised by others.
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
3 But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
4 so that your alms may be done in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 "And whenever you pray,
do not be like the hypocrites;
for they love to stand and pray
in the synagogues and at the street corners,
so that they may be seen by others.
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
6 But whenever you pray,
go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

16 "And whenever you fast,
do not look dismal, like the hypocrites,
for they disfigure their faces
so as to show others that they are fasting.
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.
17 But when you fast,
put oil on your head and wash your face,
18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others
but by your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

The gospel of the Lord.

220 THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30.15-20

I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the whole people of Israel, saying:

15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity,
death and adversity.
16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God
that I am commanding you today,
by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways,
and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances,
then you shall live and become numerous,
and the Lord your God will bless you
in the land that you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear,
but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,
18 I declare to you today that you shall perish;
you shall not live long in the land
that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.
19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today
that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,
20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him,
and holding fast to him;
for that means life to you and length of days,
so that you may live in the land
that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors,
to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1. 1-2, 3, 4-6 (R.40.5a)

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night. ***R.***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper. ***R.***

4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
6 The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

GOSPEL

Luke 9.22-25

Those who lose their lives for my sake will save it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus spoke to his disciples
and sternly ordered them not to tell anyone:

22 "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering,
and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes,
and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

23 Then he said to them all,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily
and follow me.
24 For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.
25 What does it profit them if they gain the whole world,
but lose or forfeit themselves?"

The gospel of the Lord.

221 FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58.1-9a

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

➢

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51.1-2, 3-4a, 16-17 (R.17b)

R. A broken, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. ***R.***

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight. ***R.***

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.
17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Amos 5.14

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and the Lord will be with you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9.14-15

When the bridegroom is taken away from them, then my disciples will fast.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

14 The disciples of John came to Jesus, saying,
"Why do we and the Pharisees fast often,
but your disciples do not fast?"

15 And Jesus said to them,
"The wedding guests cannot mourn
as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they?
The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,
and then they will fast."

The gospel of the Lord.

222 SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58.9b-14

If you remove the yoke of the needy,
your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

9 If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

➢

13 If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honourable;
if you honour it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
14 then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 86.1-2ab, 2c-4, 5-6 (R.11a)

R. Teach me your way, O Lord.++

or: Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may be faithful in your sight.

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you. ***R.***

3 You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.
4 Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. ***R.***

5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ezekiel 33.11

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord,
but to turn to me and live.

GOSPEL

Luke 5.27-32

I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

After healing a man who was paralyzed,
Jesus left the house where he had been teaching,
27 and he saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth;
and he said to him, "Follow me."
28 And he got up, left everything, and followed him.

29 Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house;
and there was a large crowd of tax collectors
and others sitting at the table with them.

30 The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining
to his disciples, saying,
"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"
31 Jesus answered,
"Those who are well have no need of a physician,
but those who are sick do;
32 I have come to call not the righteous
but sinners to repentance."

The gospel of the Lord.

223 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – LENTEN WEEKDAYS

Acclamations

During Lent, the acclamation "Alleluia" is not used. In its place one of the following, or similar, acclamations may be used before and after the verse. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom of God the Father!

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God!

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Marvellous and great are your works, O Lord!

Salvation, glory, and power to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Praise to you Lord, King of eternal glory!++

Praise to you, Lord, Word of eternal glory!

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, Word of the living God!

Verses

Any one of the following verses may be used in place of the text given for each day.

Psalm 51.12a, 14a
Create a clean heart in me, O God;
give back to me the joy of your salvation.

See Psalm 95.8
If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

See Psalm 130.5, 7
I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word;
with him there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Ezekiel 18.31
Rid yourselves of all your sins
and make a new heart and a new spirit.

Ezekiel 33.11
I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord,
but to turn to me and live.

Joel 2.12-13
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

See Amos 5.14
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and the Lord will be with you.

Matthew 4.4b
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4.17
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

See Luke 8.15
Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Luke 15.18
I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

John 3.16
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

John 6.63c, 68c
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

John 8.12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 11.25a, 26
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

2 Corinthians 6.2b
This is the favourable time,
this is the day of salvation.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

224 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Leviticus 19.1-2, 11-18

With justice you shall judge your neighbour.

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

19 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

2 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel
and say to them:
You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

11 You shall not steal;
you shall not deal falsely;
and you shall not lie to one another.
12 And you shall not swear falsely by my name,
profaning the name of your God:
I am the Lord.

13 You shall not defraud your neighbour;
you shall not steal;
and you shall not keep for yourself
the wages of a labourer until morning.
14 You shall not revile the deaf
or put a stumbling block before the blind;
you shall fear your God:
I am the Lord.

15 You shall not render an unjust judgment;
you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great:
with justice you shall judge your neighbour.
16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people,
and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour:
I am the Lord.

17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin;
you shall reprove your neighbour,
or you will incur guilt yourself.
18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge
against any of your people,
but you shall love your neighbour as yourself:
I am the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 14 (R. Jn 6.63b)

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

14 Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 6.2b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

This is the favourable time,
this is the day of salvation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25.31-46

Just as you did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family, you did it to me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
32 All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand
and the goats at the left.

34 "Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world;

➢

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
36 I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,
or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you,
or naked and gave you clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison
and visited you?'
40 And the king will answer them,
'Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it to me.'

41 "Then he will say to those at his left hand,
'You that are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels;
42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 "Then they also will answer,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,
and did not take care of you?'
45 Then he will answer them,
'Truly I tell you,
just as you did not do it to one of the least of these,
you did not do it to me.'
46 And these will go away into eternal punishment,
but the righteous into eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord.

225 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55.10-11

My word shall accomplish that which I purpose.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord, your God:

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.3-4, 5-6, 15-16, 17-18 (R.17b)

R. From all their afflictions God will deliver the just.

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. ***R.***

17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.4b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6.7-15

Pray in this way.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When the disciples had gathered around Jesus on the hillside,
he began to teach them:

7 “When you are praying,
do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do;
for they think that they will be heard
because of their many words.
8 Do not be like them,
for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9 “Pray then in this way:
‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.’

14 “For if you forgive others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive you;
15 but if you do not forgive others,
neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

The gospel of the Lord.

226 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Jonah 3.1-10

The Ninevehites turned from their evil ways.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah at second time, saying:
2 "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."
3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord.
Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city,
a three days' walk across.
4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk.
And he cried out, "Forty days more,
and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

5 And the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast,
and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.
6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh,
he rose from his throne, removed his robe,
covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7 Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh:
"By the decree of the king and his nobles:
No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything.
They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water.
8 Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth,
and they shall cry mightily to God.
All shall turn from their evil ways
and from the violence that is in their hands.
9 Who knows? God may relent and change his mind;
he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

10 When God saw what they did,
how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity
that he had said he would bring upon them;
and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51.1-2, 10-11, 16-17 (R.17b)

R. A broken, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. ***R.***

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me. ***R.***

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2; 12-13

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

GOSPEL

Luke 11.29-32

This is an evil generation; no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

29 When the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say,
"This generation is an evil generation;
it asks for a sign,
but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.
30 For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh,
so the Son of Man will be to this generation.

31 "The queen of the South will rise at the judgment
with the people of this generation and condemn them,
because she came from the ends of the earth
to listen to the wisdom of Solomon,
and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

32 "The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment
with this generation and condemn it,
because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah,
and see, something greater than Jonah is here!"

The gospel of the Lord.

227 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Esther 14.1, 3-5, 12-14

O my Lord, I have no helper but you.

A reading from the book of Esther.

1 Queen Esther, seized with deadly anxiety, fled to the Lord.
3 She prayed to the Lord God of Israel, and said:
"O my Lord, you only are our king;
help me, who am alone and have no helper but you,
4 for my danger is in my hand.
5 Ever since I was born I have heard in the tribe of my family
that you, O Lord, took Israel out of all the nations,
and our ancestors from among all their forebears,
for an everlasting inheritance,
and that you did for them all that you promised.

12 "Remember, O Lord;
make yourself known in this time of our affliction,
and give me courage,
O King of the gods and Master of all dominion!
13 Put eloquent speech in my mouth before the lion,
and turn his heart to hate the man who is fighting against us,
so that there may be an end of him
and those who agree with him.
14 But save us by your hand, and help me,
who am alone and have no helper but you, O Lord."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 138.1-2a, 2bc-3, 7c-8 (R.3a)

R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

1 I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
2 I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness. ***R.***

For you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.
3 On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul. ***R.***

7 You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 51.10a, 12a

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Create a clean heart in me, O God;
give back to me the joy of your salvation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 7.7-12

Everyone who asks receives.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Gathered on the hillside with the disciples,
Jesus began to teach them:
7 "Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.
8 For everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds,
and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Is there anyone among you who,
if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?
10 Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?
11 If you then, who are evil,
know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will your Father in heaven
give good things to those who ask him!

12 "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;
for this is the law and the prophets."

The gospel of the Lord.

228 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18.21-28

If the wicked turn away from all their sins they shall surely live.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me:
21 If the wicked turn away from all their sins that they have committed
and keep all my statutes and do what is lawful and right,
they shall surely live;
they shall not die.
22 None of the transgressions
that they have committed shall be remembered against them;
for the righteousness that they have done they shall live.
23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God,
and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live?

24 But when the righteous turn away from their righteousness
and commit iniquity and do the same abominable things that the wicked do,
shall they live?
None of the righteous deeds that they have done shall be remembered;
for the treachery of which they are guilty
and the sin they have committed, they shall die.

25 Yet you say,
"The way of the Lord is unfair."
Hear now, O house of Israel:
Is my way unfair?
Is it not your ways that are unfair?
26 When the righteous turn away from their righteousness
and commit iniquity, they shall die for it;
for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.
27 Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed
and do what is lawful and right,
they shall save their life.
28 Because they considered
and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed,
they shall surely live;
they shall not die.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 130.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.3)

R. If you, O Lord, laid bare our guilt,
who could endure it?

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
2 Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications! ***R.***

3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
4 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered. ***R.***

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
6 my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ezekiel 18.31

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Rid yourselves of all your sins
and make a new heart and a new spirit.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5.20-16

First be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him
and he taught them.
20 "I tell you,
unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times,
'You shall not murder';
and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'
22 But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister,
you will be liable to judgment;
and if you insult a brother or sister,
you will be liable to the council;
and if you say, 'You fool,'
you will be liable to the hell of fire.

23 “So when you are offering your gift at the altar,
if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,
24 leave your gift there before the altar and go;
first be reconciled to your brother or sister,
and then come and offer your gift.

25 “Come to terms quickly with your accuser
while the two of you are on the way to court,
or your accuser may hand you over to the judge,
and the judge to the guard,
and you will be thrown into prison.
26 Truly I tell you,
you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

The gospel of the Lord.

229 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26.16-19

You are to be a people holy to the Lord your God.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses convened all Israel and set the law before them.
“Hear, O Israel!
16 This very day the Lord your God is commanding you
to observe these statutes and ordinances;
so observe them diligently
with all your heart and with all your soul.

17 “Today you have obtained the Lord’s agreement: to be your God;
and for you to walk in his ways,
to keep his statutes, his commandments, and his ordinances,
and to obey him.

18 “Today the Lord has obtained your agreement:
to be his treasured people, as he promised you,
and to keep his commandments;
19 for him to set you high above all nations that he has made,
in praise and in fame and in honour;
and for you to be a people holy to the Lord your God,
as he promised.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.1-2, 4-5, 7-8 (R. see 1)

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1 Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
2 Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart. ***R.***

4 You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
5 O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes! ***R.***

7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
8 I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Corinthians 6.2b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

This is the favourable time,
this is the day of salvation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5.43-48

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When the disciples had gathered around Jesus on the mountain,
he spoke to them:

43 "You have heard that it was said,
'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'
44 But I say to you,
Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven;
for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good,
and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?
Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters,
what more are you doing than others?
Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The gospel of the Lord.

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

230 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Daniel 9.3, 4b-10++

We have sinned and done wrong.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

3 I, Daniel, turned to the Lord God,
to seek an answer by prayer and supplication
with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.
4 I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying,
"Ah, Lord, great and awesome God,
keeping covenant and steadfast love
with those who love you and keep your commandments,
5 we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled,
turning aside from your commandments and ordinances.
6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets,
who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes,
and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

7 "Righteousness is on your side, O Lord,
but open shame, as at this day, falls on us,
the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel,
those who are near and those who are far away,
in all the lands to which you have driven them,
because of the treachery that they have committed against you.
8 Open shame, O Lord, falls on us, our kings, our officials,
and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you.

9 "To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness,
for we have rebelled against him,
10 and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God
by following his laws, which he set before us
by his servants the prophets."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 79.8, 9, 11+13 (R.102.10a)

R. Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.

8 Do not remember against us
the iniquities of our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low. ***R.***

9 Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins,
for your name's sake. ***R.***

11 Let the groans of the prisoners come before you;
according to your great power preserve those doomed to die.
13 Then we your people, the flock of your pasture,
will give thanks to you forever;
from generation to generation
we will recount your praise. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.63b,68b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

Luke 6.36-38

Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:
36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.
Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
38 give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure,
pressed down, shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The gospel of the Lord.

231 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 1.10, 16-20, 27-28, 31++

Learn to do good; seek justice.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah, son of Amoz,
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
17 learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.
18 Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
20 but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
27 Zion shall be redeemed by justice,
and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
28 But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed together,
and those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

31 The strong shall become like tinder, and their work like a spark;
they and their work shall burn together,
with no one to quench them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 50.8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 (R.23b)

R. To the upright I will show the saving power of God.

8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.
9 I will not accept a bull from your house,
or goats from your folds. ***R.***

16 What right have you to recite my statutes,
or take my covenant on your lips?
17 For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you. ***R.***

21 These things you have done
and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one just like yourself.
But now I rebuke you,
and lay the charge before you. ***R.***

23 Those who bring thanksgiving
as their sacrifice honour me;
to those who go the right way
I will show the salvation of God. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ezekiel 18.31

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Rid yourselves of all your sins
and make a new heart and a new spirit.

GOSPEL

Matthew 23.1-12

The scribes and Pharisees do not practice what they teach.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

1 Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,
2 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' chair;
3 therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it;
but do not do as they do,
for they do not practice what they teach.
4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,
and lay them on the shoulders of others;
but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.
5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others;
for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.
6 They love to have the place of honour at banquets
and the best seats in the synagogues,
7 and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,
and to have people call them rabbi.

8 “But you are not to be called rabbi,
for you have one teacher,
and you are all students.
9 And call no one your father on earth,
for you have one Father—the one in heaven.
10 Nor are you to be called instructors,
for you have one instructor, the Messiah.
11 The greatest among you will be your servant.
12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord.

233 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 18.18-20

Come, let us bring charges against him.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The enemies of the prophet said:
18 “Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah—
for instruction shall not perish from the priest,
nor counsel from the wise,
nor the word from the prophet.
Come, let us bring charges against him,
let us not heed any of his words.”

Jeremiah prayed to the Lord in these words:
19 “Give heed to me, O Lord,
and listen to what my adversaries say!
20 Is evil a recompense for good?
Yet they have dug a pit for my life.
Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them,
to turn away your wrath from them.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.4-5, 13, 14-15 (R.16b)

R. Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.

4 Take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. ***R.***

13 For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life. ***R.***

14 But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my God."
15 My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8.12b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20.17-28

The Son of Man will be condemned to death.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

17 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem,
he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves,
and said to them on the way,
18 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem,
and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes,
and they will condemn him to death;
19 then they will hand him over to the Gentiles
to be mocked and flogged and crucified;
and on the third day he will be raised."

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons,
and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him.
21 And he said to her, "What do you want?"
She said to him,
"Declare that these two sons of mine will sit,
one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

22 But Jesus answered,
"You do not know what you are asking.

Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"
They said to him, "We are able."

23 Jesus said to them,
"You will indeed drink my cup,
but to sit at my right hand and at my left,
this is not mine to grant,
but it is for those
for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

24 When the ten heard it,
they were angry with the two brothers.
25 But Jesus called them to him and said,
"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and their great ones are tyrants over them.
26 It will not be so among you;
but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant,
27 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave;
28 just as the Son of Man came not to be served
but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

The gospel of the Lord.

233 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17.5-10

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals;
blessed are those who trust in the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

5 Thus says the Lord:
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream. ➢

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
10 I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1.1-2, 3, 4+6 (R.40.5a)

R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night. ***R.***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper. ***R.***

4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 8.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

GOSPEL

Luke 16.19-31

You received your good things, and Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told this parable
to those among the Pharisees who loved money:

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen
and who feasted sumptuously every day.
20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,
21 who longed to satisfy his hunger
with what fell from the rich man's table;
even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

22 "The poor man died
and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.
The rich man also died and was buried.
23 In Hades, where he was being tormented,
he looked up and saw Abraham far away
with Lazarus by his side.
24 He called out,
'Father Abraham, have mercy on me,
and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water
and cool my tongue;
for I am in agony in these flames.'

25 "But Abraham said,
'Child, remember that during your lifetime
you received your good things,
and Lazarus in like manner evil things;
but now he is comforted here,
and you are in agony.
26 Besides all this,
between you and us a great chasm has been fixed,
so that those who might want to pass from here to you
cannot do so,
and no one can cross from there to us.'

27 "The man who had been rich said,
'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—
28 for I have five brothers—
that he may warn them,
so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ➢

29 “Abraham replied,
‘They have Moses and the prophets;
they should listen to them.’
30 He said,
‘No, father Abraham;
but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’
31 Abraham said to him,
‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets,
neither will they be convinced
even if someone rises from the dead.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

234 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 37.3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28

Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

3 Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children,
because he was the son of his old age;
and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.
4 But when his brothers saw
that their father loved him more than all his brothers,
they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem.
13 And Israel said to Joseph,
“Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem?
Come, I will send you to them.”

17 So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.
18 They saw him from a distance,
and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.
19 They said to one another,
“Here comes this dreamer.
20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits;
then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him,
and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”

21 But when Reuben heard it,
he delivered him out of their hands, saying,
“Let us not take his life.”

22

Reuben said to them,
“Shed no blood;
throw him into this pit here in the wilderness,
but lay no hand on him”—
that he might rescue him out of their hand
and restore him to his father.

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers,
they stripped him of his robe,
the long robe with sleeves that he wore;
24 and they took him and threw him into a pit.
The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat;
and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead,
with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin,
on their way to carry it down to Egypt.
26 Then Judah said to his brothers,
“What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?
27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites,
and not lay our hands on him,
for he is our brother, our own flesh.”
And his brothers agreed.

28 When some Midianite traders passed by,
they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit,
and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver.
And they took Joseph to Egypt.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105.16-17, 18-19, 20-21 (R.5a)

R. Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

16 When God summoned famine against the land,
and broke every staff of bread,
17 he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave. ***R.***

18 His feet were hurt with fetters,
his neck was put in a collar of iron;
19 until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the Lord kept testing him. ***R.***

20

The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.
21 He made him lord of his house,
and ruler of all his possessions. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21.33-43, 45-46

The heir; come, let us kill him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus entered the temple;
and as he was teaching,
the chiefs priests and the Pharisees came to him.
Jesus said to them:

33 "Listen to a parable.
There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it,
and built a watchtower.
Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.
34 When the harvest time had come,
he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.
35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another,
and stoned another.
36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first;
and they treated them in the same way.
37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying,
'They will respect my son.'
38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves,
'The heir;
come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'
39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes,
what will he do to those tenants?"

41 The chief priests and the Pharisees said to Jesus,
"He will put those wretches to a miserable death,
and lease the vineyard to other tenants
who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42

Jesus said to them,
"Have you never read in the scriptures:
'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?
43 Therefore I tell you,
the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.
44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces;
and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables,
they realized that he was speaking about them.
46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds,
because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

235 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Micah 7.14-15, 18-20

God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

Micah prayed to the Lord in these words:
14 "Shepherd your people with your staff,
the flock that belongs to you,
which lives alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land;
let them feed in Bashan and Gilead
as in the days of old.

15 "As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,
show us marvellous things.
18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in showing clemency.

19 "He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.
You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.
20 You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (R.8a)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

3 The Lord, who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. ***R.***

9 The Lord will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. ***R.***

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far the Lord removes our transgressions from us. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 15.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

GOSPEL

Luke 15.1-3, 11-32

This brother of yours was dead and has come to life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus.
2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying,
"This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 So Jesus told them this parable:
11 "There was a man who had two sons.
12 The younger of them said to his father,
'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.'
So he divided his property between them.
13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had
and travelled to a distant country,
and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

14 "When he had spent everything,
a severe famine took place throughout that country,
and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out
to one of the citizens of that country,
who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.
16 He would gladly have filled himself
with the pods that the pigs were eating;
and no one gave him anything.

17 "But when he came to himself he said,
'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare,
but here I am dying of hunger!
18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him,
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;
19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son;
treat me like one of your hired hands."'

20 "So he set off and went to his father.
But while he was still far off,
his father saw him and was filled with compassion;
he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "Then the son said to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
22 But the father said to his slaves,
'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him;
put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
23 And get the fatted calf and kill it,
and let us eat and celebrate;
24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again;
he was lost and is found!'
And they began to celebrate.

25 "Now his elder son was in the field;
and when he came and approached the house,
he heard music and dancing.
26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.
27 He replied, 'Your brother has come,
and your father has killed the fatted calf,
because he has got him back safe and sound.'

28 "Then he became angry and refused to go in.
His father came out and began to plead with him.
29 But he answered his father,
'Listen! For all these years
I have been working like a slave for you,
and I have never disobeyed your command; ➢

yet you have never given me even a young goat
so that I might celebrate with my friends.
30 But when this son of yours came back,
who has devoured your property with prostitutes,
you killed the fatted calf for him!'

31 "Then the father said to him,
'Son, you are always with me,
and all that is mine is yours.
32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice,
because this brother of yours was dead
and has come to life;
he was lost and has been found.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

236 OPTIONAL MASS

These readings may be used on any day of this week, especially in Years B and C when the gospel of the Samaritan woman is not read on the Third Sunday of Lent.

FIRST READING

Exodus 17.1-7

Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.

A reading from the book of Exodus.

1 From the wilderness of Sin
the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages,
as the Lord commanded.
They camped at Rephidim,
but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said,
"Give us water to drink."
Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me?
Why do you test the Lord?"
3 But the people thirsted there for water;
and the people complained against Moses and said,
"Why did you bring us out of Egypt,
to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried out to the Lord,
"What shall I do with this people?
They are almost ready to stone me."

5 The Lord said to Moses,
"Go on ahead of the people,
and take some of the elders of Israel with you;
take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb.
Strike the rock, and water will come out of it,
so that the people may drink."

Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
7 He called the place Massah and Meribah,
because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord,
saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95.1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9 (R.7c+8a)

R. If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ***R.***

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. ***R.***

O that today you would listen to his voice!
8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 4.42, 15

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

GOSPEL (longer)

John 4.5-42

The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar,
near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there,
and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well.
It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water,
and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him,
"How is it that you, a Jew,
ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"
(Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)
10 Jesus answered her,
"If you knew the gift of God,
and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'

you would have asked him,
and he would have given you living water."
11 The woman said to him,
"Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep.
Where do you get that living water?
12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well,
and with his children and his flocks drank from it?"
13 Jesus said to her,
"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them
will never be thirsty.
The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life."
15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water,
so that I may never be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."
17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband."
Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';
18 for you have had five husbands,
and the one you have now is not your husband.
What you have said is true!"

19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.
20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain,
but you say that the place where people must worship
is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said to her,
"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we know,
for salvation is from the Jews.
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshippers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth,
for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.
24 God is spirit,
and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ➢

25 The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming"
(who is called the Christ).
"When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."
26 Jesus said to her, "I am he,
the one who is speaking to you."

27 Just then his disciples came.
They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman,
but no one said, "What do you want?"
or, "Why are you speaking with her?"
28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city.
She said to the people,
29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!
He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"
30 They left the city and were on their way to him.
31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him,
"Rabbi, eat something."
32 But he said to them,
"I have food to eat that you do not know about."
33 So the disciples said to one another,
"Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

34 Jesus said to them,
"My food is to do the will of him who sent me
and to complete his work.
35 Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'?
But I tell you, look around you,
and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.
36 The reaper is already receiving wages
and is gathering fruit for eternal life,
so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.
37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'
38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour.
Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour."

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus
because of the woman's testimony,
"He told me everything I have ever done."
40 So when the Samaritans came to him,
they asked him to stay with them;
and he stayed there two days.
41 And many more believed because of his word.

42 They said to the woman,
"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe,
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL (shorter)

John 4.5-15, 19-26, 39, 40-42

The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar,
near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there,
and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well.
It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water,
and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him,
"How is it that you, a Jew,
ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"
(Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)
10 Jesus answered her,
"If you knew the gift of God,
and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'
you would have asked him,
and he would have given you living water."

11 The woman said to him,
"Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep.
Where do you get that living water?
12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well,
and with his children and his flocks drank from it?"

13 Jesus said to her,
"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them
will never be thirsty.
The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life."

➢

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water,
so that I may never be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.
19 I see that you are a prophet.
20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain,
but you say that the place where people must worship
is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said to her,
"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we know,
for salvation is from the Jews.
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshippers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth,
for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.
24 God is spirit,
and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

25 The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming"
(who is called the Christ).
"When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."
26 Jesus said to her, "I am he,
the one who is speaking to you."

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus.
40 So when they came to him,
they asked him to stay with them;
and he stayed there two days.
41 And many more believed because of his word.
42 They said to the woman,
"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe,
for we have heard for ourselves,
and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

237 MONDAY

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5.1-15a

There were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.

A reading from the second book of Kings.

1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram,
was a great man and in high favour with his master,
because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram.
The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

2 Now the Arameans on one of their raids
had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel,
and she served Naaman's wife.
3 She said to her mistress,
"If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria!
He would cure him of his leprosy."

4 So Naaman went in and told his lord
just what the girl from the land of Israel had said.
5 And the king of Aram said,
"Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."
He went, taking with him ten talents of silver,
six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments.

6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read,
"When this letter reaches you,
know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman,
that you may cure him of his leprosy."
7 When the king of Israel read the letter,
he tore his clothes and said,
"Am I God, to give death or life,
that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy?
Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

8 But when Elisha the man of God
heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes,
he sent a message to the king,
"Why have you torn your clothes?
Let him come to me,
that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

➢

9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots,
and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.
10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying,
"Go, wash in the Jordan seven times,
and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became angry and went away, saying,
"I thought that for me he would surely come out,
and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God,
and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!
12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus,
better than all the waters of Israel?
Could I not wash in them, and be clean?"
He turned and went away in a rage.

13 But his servants approached and said to him,
"Father,
if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult,
would you not have done it?
How much more, when all he said to you was,
'Wash, and be clean'?"

14 So Namaan went down
and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,
according to the word of the man of God;
his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy,
and he was clean.
15 Then he returned to the man of God,
he and all his company;
he came and stood before him and said,
"Now I know
that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 42.1-2, 3; 43.3, 4, (R. see 42.2)

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God;
when shall I see him face to face.

1 As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and behold the face of God? ***R.***

3 O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy mountain
and to your dwelling. ***R.***

4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 129.5, 7

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word;
with him there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

GOSPEL

Luke 4.24-30

Jesus, like the prophets Elijah and Elisha, was sent not only to Israel.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus came to Nazara and spoke to the people in the synagogue:
24 And he said,
"Truly I tell you,
no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.

25 "But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah,
when the heaven was shut up three years and six months,
and there was a severe famine over all the land;
26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them
except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha,
and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.
29 They got up, drove him out of the town,
and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built,
so that they might hurl him off the cliff.

30 But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The gospel of the Lord.

238 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Daniel 3.25, 34-43

With a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

25 Azariah, condemned to death by fire,
stood still in the fire and prayed aloud:

34 "For your name's sake do not give us up forever,
and do not annul your covenant.
35 Do not withdraw your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham your beloved
and for the sake of your servant Isaac
and Israel your holy one,
36 to whom you promised
to multiply their descendants like the stars of heaven
and like the sand on the shore of the sea.

37 "For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any other nation,
and are brought low this day in all the world
because of our sins.
38 In our day we have no ruler, or prophet, or leader,
no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense,
no place to make an offering before you and to find mercy.

39 "Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted,
40 as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls,
or with tens of thousands of fat lambs;
such may our sacrifice be in your sight today,
and may we unreservedly follow you,
for no shame will come to those who trust in you.

41 "And now with all our heart we follow you;
we fear you and seek your presence.
42 Do not put us to shame,
but deal with us in your patience
and in your abundant mercy.
43 Deliver us in accordance with your marvellous works,
and bring glory to your name, O Lord."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 25.4-5a, 6-7, 8-9 (R.6a)

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation. ***R.***

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! ***R.***

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2.12-13

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18.21-35

***So my heavenly Father will not forgive you,
if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

21 Peter came and said to Jesus,
"Lord, if a brother or sister sins against me,
how often should I forgive?
As many as seven times?"
22 Jesus said to him,
"Not seven times,
but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
24 When he began the reckoning,
one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;
25 and, as he could not pay,
his lord ordered him to be sold,
together with his wife and children and all his possessions,
and payment to be made. ➢

26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying,
'Have patience with me,
and I will pay you everything.'
27 And out of pity, the lord of that slave released him
and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that same slave, as he went out,
came upon one of his fellow slaves
who owed him a hundred denarii;
and seizing him by the throat, he said,
'Pay what you owe.'
29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him,
'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
30 But he refused;
then he went and threw him into prison
until he would pay the debt.

31 "When his fellow slaves saw what had happened,
they were greatly distressed,
and they went and reported to their lord
all that had taken place.
32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him,
'You wicked slave!
I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave,
as I had mercy on you?'
34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured
until he would pay his entire debt.

35 "So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you,
if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

239 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-9

Observe the commandments so that you may live and show your wisdom to the peoples.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people:

1 Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances
that I am teaching you to observe,
so that you may live to enter and occupy the land
that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

5 See, just as the Lord my God has charged me,
I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe
in the land that you are about to enter and occupy.
6 You must observe them diligently,
for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples,
who, when they hear all these statutes, will say,
"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!"
7 For what other great nation has a god so near to it
as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him?
8 And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances
as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

9 But take care and watch yourselves closely,
so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen
nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life;
make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147.12-13, 15-16, 19-20 (R.12a)

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you. ***R.***

15 The Lord sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.
16 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes. ***R.***

19 The Lord declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 6.63b, 68b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5.17-19

Whoever does and teaches the commandments will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus went up the mountain,
and he began to teach his disciples:
17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;
I have come not to abolish but to fulfil.
18 For truly I tell you,
until heaven and earth pass away,
not one letter,
not one stroke of a letter
will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 "Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments,
and teaches others to do the same,
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven;
but whoever does them and teaches them
will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

240 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 7.23-28

This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:
23 This command I gave to my people,
"Obey my voice, and I will be your God,
and you shall be my people;
and walk only in the way that I command you,
so that it may be well with you."
24 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear,
but, in the stubbornness of their evil will,
they walked in their own counsels,
and looked backward rather than forward.

25 From the day that your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt
until this day,
I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them,
day after day;
26 yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention,
but they stiffened their necks.
They did worse than their ancestors did.

27 So you shall speak all these words to them,
but they will not listen to you.
You shall call to them,
but they will not answer you.
28 You shall say to them:
This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God,
and did not accept discipline;
truth has perished;
it is cut off from their lips.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95.1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9 (R.7c+8a)

R. If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ***R.***

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. ***R.***

O that today you would listen to his voice!
8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2.12-13

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

GOSPEL

Luke 11.14-23

Whoever is not with me is against me,
and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

14 Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute;
when the demon had gone out,
the one who had been mute spoke,
and the crowds were amazed.
15 But some of them said,
"He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons."

16 Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven.
17 But he knew what they were thinking and said to them,
"Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert,
and house falls on house.
18 If Satan also is divided against himself,
how will his kingdom stand?
—for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul.
19 Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul,
by whom do your exorcists cast them out?

Therefore they will be your judges.
20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons,
then the kingdom of God has come to you.

21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle,
his property is safe.
22 But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him,
he takes away his armour in which he trusted
and divides his plunder.
23 Whoever is not with me is against me,
and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

The gospel of the Lord.

241 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Hosea 14.1-9

We will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands.

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

Thus says the Lord:
1 Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.
2 Take words with you and return to the Lord;
say to him,
"Take away all guilt;
accept that which is good,
and we will offer the fruit of our lips.

3 "Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride upon horses;
we will say no more, 'Our God,'
to the work of our hands.
In you the orphan finds mercy."

4 I will heal their disloyalty;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily,
he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon. ➢

6 His shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive tree,
and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.
7 They shall again live beneath my shadow,
they shall flourish as a garden;
they shall blossom like the vine,
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

8 O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?
It is I who answer and look after you.
I am like an evergreen cypress;
your faithfulness comes from me.

9 Those who are wise understand these things;
those who are discerning know them.
For the ways of the Lord are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 81.5c-7a, 7bc-8, 9-10ab, 13+16 (R. see 10+8a)

R. I am the Lord, your God: hear my voice.

5 I hear a voice I had not known:
6 "I relieved your shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
7 In distress you called, and I rescued you. ***R.***

"I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
8 Hear, O my people, while I admonish you;
O Israel, if you would but listen to me! ***R.***

9 "There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow to a foreign god.
10 I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ***R.***

13 "O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!
16 I would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.17

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

GOSPEL

Mark 12.28b-34

Jesus said, 'The Lord our God, the Lord is one;
you shall love the Lord your God,'
and 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

28 One of the scribes came near and asked Jesus,
"Which commandment is the first of all?"
29 Jesus answered, "The first is,
'Hear, O Israel:
the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'
31 The second is this,
'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 Then the scribe said to him,
"You are right, Teacher;
you have truly said that 'he is one,
and besides him there is no other';
33 and 'to love him with all the heart,
and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,'
and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,'
—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
After that no one dared to ask him any question.

The gospel of the Lord.

242 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Hosea 5.15b - 6.6++

I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, says the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

The Lord says:
when Ephraim and Judah acknowledge their guilt and seek my face,
then they shall cry out to me.
15 In their distress they will beg my favour:
1 "Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
3 Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth."

Then I shall say to them:
4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.
6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 51.1-2, 16-17, 18-19ab (R. Hos 6.6)

R. It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin. ***R.***

16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.
17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise. ***R.***

18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
19 then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 95.8ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL

Luke 18.9-14

***The tax collector went home justified rather than the Pharisee;
for all who humble themselves will be exalted.***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

9 Jesus told this parable
to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous
and regarded others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray,
one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus,
'God, I thank you that I am not like other people:
thieves, rogues, adulterers,
or even like this tax collector.
12 I fast twice a week;
I give a tenth of all my income.'

13 "But the tax collector, standing far off,
would not even look up to heaven,
but was beating his breast and saying,
'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

14 "I tell you,
this man went down to his home justified rather than the other;
for all who exalt themselves will be humbled,
but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

The gospel of the Lord.

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

243 OPTIONAL MASS

These readings may be used on any day of this week, especially in Years B and C when the gospel of the man born blind is not read on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

FIRST READING

Micah 7.7-9

When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

7 As for me, I will look to the Lord,
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.

8 Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy;
when I fall, I shall rise;
when I sit in darkness,
the Lord will be a light to me.
9 I must bear the indignation of the Lord,
because I have sinned against him,
until he takes my side
and executes judgment for me.
He will bring me out to the light;
I shall see his vindication.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27.1, 7-8, 9, 13-14 (R.1a)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? ***R.***

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
8 “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek. ***R.***

9 Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off,
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! ***R.***

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8.12b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL (longer)

John 9.1-41

The man who was blind washed his eyes and came back able to see.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.
2 His disciples asked him,
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned;
he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.
4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day;
night is coming when no one can work.
5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground
and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,
7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"
(which means Sent).

Then the man who was blind went and washed, and came back able to see.
8 The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar
began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"
9 Some were saying, "It is he."
Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him."
He kept saying, "I am the man."
10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"
11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes,
and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.'
Then I went and washed and received my sight." ➢

12 They said to him, "Where is he?"
He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.
14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.
15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him
how he had received his sight.
He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes.
Then I washed, and now I see."
16 Some of the Pharisees said,
"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."
But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"
And they were divided.
17 So they said again to the blind man,
"What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."
He said, "He is a prophet."

18 They did not believe that he had been blind
and had received his sight
until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight
19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?
How then does he now see?"
20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son,
and that he was born blind;
21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees,
nor do we know who opened his eyes.
Ask him; he is of age.
He will speak for himself."
22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities,
who had already agreed
that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah
would be put out of the synagogue.
23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind,
and they said to him, "Give glory to God!
We know that this man is a sinner."
25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner.
One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."
26 They said to him, "What did he do to you?
How did he open your eyes?"
27 He answered them,
"I have told you already, and you would not listen.
Why do you want to hear it again?
Do you also want to become his disciples?"

28 Then they reviled him, saying,
"You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.
29 We know that God has spoken to Moses,
but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing!
You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.
31 We know that God does not listen to sinners,
but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.
32 Never since the world began has it been heard
that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.
33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."
34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins,
and are you trying to teach us?"
And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out,
and when he found him, he said,
"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
36 He answered, "And who is he, sir?
Tell me, so that I may believe in him."
37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him,
and the one speaking with you is he."
38 He said, "Lord, I believe."
And he worshipped him.

39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment
so that those who do not see may see,
and those who do see may become blind."
40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,
"Surely we are not blind, are we?"
41 Jesus said to them,
"If you were blind, you would have no sin.
But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL (shorter)

John 9.1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

The man who was blind washed his eyes and came back able to see.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.
6 He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva
and spread the mud on the man's eyes,
7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"
(which means Sent).

Then the man who was blind went and washed, and came back able to see.
8 The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar
began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"
9 Some were saying, "It is he."
Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him."
He kept saying, "I am the man."
13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.
15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him
how he had received his sight.
He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes.
Then I washed, and now I see."
16 Some of the Pharisees said,
"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."
But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"
And they were divided.

17 So they said again to the blind man,
"What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."
He said, "He is a prophet."
34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins,
and are you trying to teach us?"
And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out,
and when he found him, he said,
Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
36 He answered, "And who is he, sir?
Tell me, so that I may believe in him."
37 Jesus said to him,
"You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."
38 He said, "Lord, I believe."
And he worshipped him.

The gospel of the Lord.

244 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65.17-21

No more shall the sound of weeping or the cry of distress be heard.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:
17 I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
20 No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 30.1+3, 4-5, 10+11a+12b (R.1a)

R. I will praise you, Lord,
for you have rescued me.

1 I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
3 O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. ***R.***

4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
5 For his anger is but for a moment;
his favour is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning. ***R.***

10 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!
11 You have turned my mourning into dancing.
12 O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Amos 5.14

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Seek good and not evil so that you may live,
and the Lord will be with you.

GOSPEL

John 4.43-54

Jesus said, "Go; your son will live."

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After spending two days in Samaria,
43 Jesus went from that place to Galilee
44 (for Jesus himself had testified
that a prophet has no honour in the prophet's own country).
45 When he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him,
since they had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the festival;
for they too had gone to the festival.

46 Then he came again to Cana in Galilee
where he had changed the water into wine.
Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum.
47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee,
he went and begged him to come down and heal his son,
for he was at the point of death.
48 Then Jesus said to him,
"Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe."
49 The official said to him,
"Sir, come down before my little boy dies."
50 Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live."
The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him
and started on his way.

51 As he was going down, his slaves met him
and told him that his child was alive.
52 So he asked them the hour when he began to recover,
and they said to him,
"Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him."
53 The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him,
"Your son will live."

So he himself believed, along with his whole household.
54 Now this was the second sign that Jesus did
after coming from Judea to Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

245 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 47.1-9, 12

Water was flowing from the temple; and everything will live where the river goes.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

In the midst of the vision I received from the Lord,
1 the angel brought me back to the entrance of the temple;
there, the water was flowing
from below the threshold of the temple toward the east
(for the temple faced east);
and the water was flowing down
from below the south end of the threshold of the temple,
south of the altar.

2 Then the angel brought me out by way of the north gate,
and led me around on the outside to the outer gate
that faces toward the east;
and the water was coming out on the south side.

3 Going on eastward with a cord in his hand,
the man measured one thousand cubits,
and then led me through the water;
and it was ankle-deep.
4 Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water;
and it was knee-deep.
Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water;
and it was up to the waist.
5 Again he measured one thousand,
and it was a river that I could not cross,
for the water had risen;
it was deep enough to swim in,
a river that could not be crossed.

➢

6 He said to me,
"Mortal, have you seen this?"
Then he led me back along the bank of the river.
7 As I came back,
I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees
on the one side and on the other.
8 He said to me,
"This water flows toward the eastern region
and goes down into the Arabah;
and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters,
the water will become fresh.

9 "Wherever the river goes,
every living creature that swarms will live,
and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there.
It will become fresh;
and everything will live where the river goes.

12 "On the banks, on both sides of the river,
there will grow all kinds of trees for food.
Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail,
but they will bear fresh fruit every month,
because the water for them flows from the sanctuary.
Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46.1-2, 4-5, 7-8 (R.7)

R. The mighty Lord is our refuge.++

or: The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea. ***R.***

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns. ***R.***

7

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what awesome things he has brought on the earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 51.10a, 12a

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Create a clean heart in me, O God;
give back to me the joy of your salvation.

GOSPEL

John 5.1-16

At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 There was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
2 Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool,
called in Hebrew "Beth-zatha,"
which has five porticoes.
3 In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.
5 One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.
6 When Jesus saw him lying there
and knew that he had been there a long time,
Jesus said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"
7 The sick man answered him,
"Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up;
and while I am making my way,
someone else steps down ahead of me."

8 Jesus said to him,
"Stand up, take your mat and walk."
9 At once the man was made well,
and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.
10 So the Jews said to the man who had been cured,
"It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat."
11 But he answered them,
"The man who made me well said to me,
'Take up your mat and walk.'"
12 They asked him,
"Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk'?"
13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was,
for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there.

➢

14

Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him,
"See, you have been made well!
Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you."
15 The man went away
and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus,
because he was doing such things on the sabbath.

The gospel of the Lord.

246 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49.8-15

I have given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his servant:
8 In a time of favour I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people,
to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,
9 saying to the prisoners, "Come out,"
to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves."

They shall feed along the ways,
on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;
10 they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.
11 And I will turn all my mountains into a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.
12 Lo, these shall come from far away,
and lo, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.

13 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

14

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me.”
15 Can a woman forget her nursing child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145.8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 (R.8a)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made. ***R.***

13 The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.
14 The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down. ***R.***

17 The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 11.25a, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

GOSPEL

John 5.16-30

***Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life,
so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes.***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus healed a man who was paralyzed on the Sabbath.
16 Therefore the Jewish leaders started persecuting Jesus,
because he was doing such things on the Sabbath.
17 But Jesus answered them,
“My Father is still working, and I also am working.”

➢

18

For this reason the Jewish leaders were seeking all the more to kill him,
because he was not only breaking the sabbath,
but was also calling God his own Father,
thereby making himself equal to God.

19 Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own,
but only what he sees the Father doing;
for whatever the Father does,
the Son does likewise.

20 "The Father loves the Son
and shows him all that he himself is doing;
and he will show him greater works than these,
so that you will be astonished.

21 "Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life,
so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes.
22 The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son,
23 so that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father.
Anyone who does not honour the Son
does not honour the Father who sent him.

24 "Very truly, I tell you,
anyone who hears my word
and believes him who sent me has eternal life,
and does not come under judgment,
but has passed from death to life.

25 "Very truly, I tell you,
the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God,
and those who hear will live.
26 For just as the Father has life in himself,
so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself;
27 and he has given him authority to execute judgment,
because he is the Son of Man.

28 "Do not be astonished at this;
for the hour is coming
when all who are in their graves will hear his voice
29 and will come out—
those who have done good, to the resurrection of life,
and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

30

“I can do nothing on my own.
As I hear, I judge;
and my judgment is just,
because I seek to do not my own will
but the will of him who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

247 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Exodus 32.7-14

***Turn from your fierce wrath;
change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.***

A reading from the book of Exodus.

After the Lord God had finished giving the tablets of the covenant
to Moses on Mount Sinai,
7 the Lord said to Moses,
“Go down at once!
Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt,
have acted perversely;
8 they have been quick
to turn aside from the way that I commanded them;
they have cast for themselves an image of a calf,
and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said,
‘These are your gods, O Israel,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”

9 The Lord said to Moses,
“I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
10 Now let me alone,
so that my wrath may burn hot against them
and I may consume them;
and of you I will make a great nation.”

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said,
“O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people,
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt
with great power and with a mighty hand?
12 Why should the Egyptians say,
‘It was with evil intent
that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains,
and to consume them from the face of the earth’?

➢

Turn from your fierce wrath;
change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants,
how you swore to them by your own self,
saying to them,
'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven,
and all this land
that I have promised I will give to your descendants,
and they shall inherit it forever.'"

14 And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster
that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 106.19-20, 21-22, 23 (R.4a)

R. Lord, remember us, for the love you bear your people.

19 Our ancestors made a calf at Horeb
and worshipped a cast image.
20 They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass. ***R.***

21 They forgot God, their Saviour,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. ***R.***

23 Therefore God said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

GOSPEL

John 5.18, 31-47++

Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

18 The Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Jesus,
because he was not only breaking the sabbath,
but was also calling God his own Father,

thereby making himself equal to God.
Jesus said to them:
31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.
32 There is another who testifies on my behalf,
and I know that his testimony to me is true.

33 "You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth.
34 Not that I accept such human testimony,
but I say these things so that you may be saved.
35 He was a burning and shining lamp,
and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.
36 But I have a testimony greater than John's.
The works that the Father has given me to complete,
the very works that I am doing,
testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me.
37 And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf.
You have never heard his voice or seen his form,
38 and you do not have his word abiding in you,
because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

39 "You search the scriptures
because you think that in them you have eternal life;
and it is they that testify on my behalf.
40 Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
41 I do not accept glory from human beings.
42 But I know that you do not have the love of God in you.
43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me;
if another comes in his own name, you will accept him.

44 "How can you believe when you accept glory from one another
and do not seek the glory
that comes from the one who alone is God?
45 Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father;
your accuser is Moses,
on whom you have set your hope.
46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me,
for he wrote about me.
47 But if you do not believe what he wrote,
how will you believe what I say?"

The gospel of the Lord.

248 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Wisdom 2.1a, 12-22

***Let us condemn the righteous one to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.***

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

1 The ungodly reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,
12 "Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.
13 He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.

14 "He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;
15 the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.
16 We are considered by him as something base,
and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.

17 "Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
18 for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
19 Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
20 Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected."

21 Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
22 and they did not know the secret purposes of God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.16-17, 18-19, 20+22 (R.18a)

R. The Lord is near to broken hearts.

16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles. ***R.***

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all. ***R.***

20 He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.
22 The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.4b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL

John 7.1-2, 10, 25-30

They tried to arrest Jesus, but his hour had not yet come.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Jesus went about in Galilee.
He did not wish to go about in Judea
because the Jewish leaders
were looking for an opportunity to kill him.
2 Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near.
10 But after his brothers had gone to the festival,
then he also went,
not publicly but as it were in secret.

25 Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying,
"Is not this the man whom the authorities are trying to kill?
26 And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him!
Can it be that the authorities really know
that this is the Messiah?
27 Yet we know where this man is from;
but when the Messiah comes,
no one will know where he is from." ➢

28 Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple,
"You know me, and you know where I am from.
I have not come on my own.
But the one who sent me is true,
and you do not know him.
29 I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me."

30 Then they tried to arrest Jesus,
but no one laid hands on him,
because his hour had not yet come.

The gospel of the Lord.

249 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 11.18-20

I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah cried out in anguish:
18 It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
19 But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

20 But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Psalm 7.1-2, 8bc-9, 10-11 (R.1a)

R. Lord, my God, I take shelter in you.

1 O Lord my God, in you I take refuge;
save me from all my pursuers, and deliver me,
2 or like a lion they will tear me apart;
they will drag me away, with no one to rescue. ***R.***

8 Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness
and according to the integrity that is in me.
9 O let the evil of the wicked come to an end,
but establish the righteous,
you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God. ***R.***
10 God is my shield,
who saves the upright in heart.
11 God is a righteous judge,
and a God who has indignation every day. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
See Luke 8.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

GOSPEL
John 7.40-53

Has not the scripture said that the Messiah comes from Bethlehem?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus had been teaching in the temple at Jerusalem.
40 When the people heard his words, some in the crowd said,
"This is really the prophet."
41 Others said, "This is the Messiah."
But some asked,
"Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he?
42 Has not the scripture said
that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem,
the village where David lived?"
43 So there was a division in the crowd because of him.
44 Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

45 Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees,
who asked them,
"Why did you not arrest him?" ➢

46 The police answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this!"
47 Then the Pharisees replied,
"Surely you have not been deceived too, have you?
48 Has any one of the authorities
or of the Pharisees believed in him?
49 But this crowd, which does not know the law—
they are accursed."

50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before,
and who was one of them, asked,
51 "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing
to find out what they are doing, does it?"
52 They replied,
"Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you?
Search and you will see
that no prophet is to arise from Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

250 OPTIONAL MASS

These readings may be used on any day of this week, especially in Years B and C when the gospel of Lazarus is not read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4.18-21, 32-33, 34d, 35c-37++

Elisha bent over the child and prayed, and the flesh of the child grew warm.

A reading from the second book of Kings.

It happened that a woman of Shunem
had offered the prophet Elisha the hospitality of her home.
In return, God had given her a son.

18 When the child was older,
he went out one day to his father among the reapers.
19 He complained to his father,
"Oh, my head, my head!"
The father said to his servant,
"Carry the boy to his mother."

20 The servant carried him and brought him to his mother;
the child sat on her lap until noon, and he died.
21 She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God,
closed the door on him, and left.

32 When Elisha came into the house,
he saw the child lying dead on his bed.
33 So he went in and closed the door on the two of them,
and prayed to the Lord,
34 and while he lay bent over him,
the flesh of the child became warm.
35 He walked once to and fro in the room,
then again bent over the child;
the child sneezed seven times, and opened his eyes.

36 Elisha summoned Gehazi and said,
"Call the Shunammite woman."
So the servant called her.
When she came to him, he said,
"Take your son."
37 She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground;
then she took her son and left.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 17.1, 6-7, 8b+15 (R.15b)

R. Lord, when your glory appears,
my joy will be full.

1 Hear a just cause, O Lord;
attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer
from lips free of deceit. ***R.***

6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
7 Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O saviour of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand. ***R.***

8 Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,
15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake I shall be satisfied,
beholding your likeness. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 11.25a, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

GOSPEL (longer)

John 11.1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Now a certain man, Lazarus, was ill.
He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume
and wiped his feet with her hair;
her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,
"Lord, he whom you love is ill."
4 But when Jesus heard this, he said,
"This illness does not lead to death;
rather it is for God's glory,
so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."
5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,
6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill,
he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this Jesus said to the disciples,
"Let us go to Judea again."
8 The disciples said to him,
"Rabbi, the people there were just now trying to stone you,
and are you going there again?"
9 Jesus answered,
"Are there not twelve hours of daylight?
Those who walk during the day do not stumble,
because they see the light of this world.
10 But those who walk at night stumble,
because the light is not in them."

11 After saying this, he told them,
"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,
but I am going there to awaken him."
12 The disciples said to him,
"Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."
13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death,
but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.
14 Then Jesus told them plainly,
"Lazarus is dead.
15 For your sake I am glad I was not there,
so that you may believe.
But let us go to him."
16 Thomas, who was called the Twin,
said to his fellow disciples,
"Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 When Jesus arrived,
he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.
18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem,
some two miles away,
19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary
to console them about their brother.
20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him,
while Mary stayed at home.
21 Martha said to Jesus,
"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."
23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."
24 Martha said to him,
"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."
25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. ➢

Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live,
26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?”
27 She said to him,
“Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,
the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary,
and told her privately,
“The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”
29 And when Mary heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.
30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village,
but was still at the place where Martha had met him.
31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her,
saw Mary get up quickly and go out.
They followed her because they thought
that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him,
she knelt at his feet and said to him,
“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”
33 When Jesus saw her weeping,
and the Jews who came with her also weeping,
he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.
34 Jesus said, “Where have you laid him?”
They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”
35 Jesus began to weep.
36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”
37 But some of them said,
“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man
have kept this man from dying?”

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.
39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”
Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,
“Lord, already there is a stench
because he has been dead four days.”
40 Jesus said to her,
“Did I not tell you that if you believed,
you would see the glory of God?”
41 So they took away the stone.
And Jesus looked upward and said,
“Father, I thank you for having heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me,
but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here,
so that they may believe that you sent me."
43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!"
44 The dead man came out,
his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth,
and his face wrapped in a cloth.
Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."
45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary
and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL (shorter) John 11.3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

3 The sisters of Lazarus sent a message to Jesus,
"Lord, he whom you love is ill."
4 But when Jesus heard this, he said,
"This illness does not lead to death;
rather it is for God's glory,
so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."
5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,
6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill,
he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.
7 Then after this he said to the disciples,
"Let us go to Judea again."
17 When Jesus arrived,
he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.
20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him,
while Mary stayed at home.
21 Martha said to Jesus,
"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."
23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."
24 Martha said to him,
"I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."
25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me,
even though they die, will live, ➢

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?"
27 She said to him,
"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,
the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

33 Jesus was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.
34 He said, "Where have you laid him?"
They said to him, "Lord, come and see."
35 Jesus began to weep.
36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"
37 But some of them said,
"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man
have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb.
It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.
39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone."
Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him,
"Lord, already there is a stench
because he has been dead four days."
40 Jesus said to her,
"Did I not tell you that if you believed,
you would see the glory of God?"
41 So they took away the stone.
And Jesus looked upward and said,
"Father, I thank you for having heard me.
42 I knew that you always hear me,
but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here,
so that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!"
44 The dead man came out,
his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth,
and his face wrapped in a cloth.
Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."
45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary
and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

251 MONDAY

A shorter version (verses 2, 4-6, 8, 15-16, 19-23, 27, 42-46, 48-64) follows this reading.

FIRST READING (longer) Daniel 13.1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-64++

I am to die, though I have done none of the wicked things that they have charged against me! And the Lord heard her cry.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

1 There was a man living in Babylon whose name was Joakim.
2 He married the daughter of Hilkiah, named Susanna,
a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord.
3 Her parents were righteous,
and had trained their daughter according to the law of Moses.
4 Joakim was very rich, and had a fine garden adjoining his house;
the Jews used to come to him because he was the most honoured of them all.
5 That year two elders from the people were appointed as judges.
Concerning them the Lord had said:
"Wickedness came forth from Babylon,
from elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people."

6 These men were frequently at Joakim's house,
and all who had a case to be tried came to them there.

7 When the people left at noon,
Susanna would go into her husband's garden to walk.
8 Every day the two elders used to see her,
going in and walking about, and they began to lust for her.
9 They suppressed their consciences
and turned away their eyes from looking to Heaven
or remembering their duty to administer justice.

15 Once, while they were watching for an opportune day,
Susanna went in as before with only two maids,
and wished to bathe in the garden, for it was a hot day.
16 No one was there except the two elders,
who had hidden themselves and were watching her.

19 When the maids had gone out,
the two elders got up and ran to her.
20 They said,
"Look, the garden doors are shut,
and no one can see us.
We are burning with desire for you;
so give your consent, and lie with us.

➢

21 If you refuse, we will testify against you
that a young man was with you,
and this was why you sent your maids away."

22 Susanna groaned and said,
"I am completely trapped.
For if I do this, it will mean death for me;
if I do not, I cannot escape your hands.
23 I choose not to do it;
I will fall into your hands, rather than sin in the sight of the Lord."

24 Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice,
and the two elders shouted against her.
25 And one of them ran and opened the garden doors.
26 When the people in the house heard the shouting in the garden,
they rushed in at the side door to see what had happened to her.
27 And when the elders told their story,
the servants felt very much ashamed,
for nothing like this had ever been said about Susanna.

28 The next day,
when the people gathered at the house of her husband Joakim,
the two elders came, full of their wicked plot
to have Susanna put to death.
In the presence of the people they said,
29 "Send for Susanna daughter of Hilkiah, the wife of Joakim."
30 So they sent for her.
And she came with her parents, her children, and all her relatives.

33 Those who were with her and all who saw her were weeping.
34 Then the two elders stood up before the people
and laid their hands on her head.
35 Through her tears she looked up toward Heaven,
for her heart trusted in the Lord.
36 The elders said,
"While we were walking in the garden alone,
this woman came in with two maids, shut the garden doors,
and dismissed the maids.
37 Then a young man, who was hiding there,
came to her and lay with her.
38 We were in a corner of the garden,
and when we saw this wickedness we ran to them.
39 Although we saw them embracing, we could not hold the man,
because he was stronger than we,
and he opened the doors and got away.

40 We did, however, seize this woman and asked who the young man was,
41 but she would not tell us.
These things we testify."

Because Susanna's accusers were elders of the people and judges,
the assembly believed them and condemned Susanna to death.
42 Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said,
"O eternal God,
you know what is secret
and are aware of all things before they come to be;
43 you know that these men have given false evidence against me.
And now I am to die,
though I have done none of the wicked things
that they have charged against me!"

44 The Lord heard her cry.
45 Just as she was being led off to execution,
God stirred up the holy spirit of a young lad named Daniel,
46 and he shouted with a loud voice,
"I want no part in shedding this woman's blood!"

47 All the people turned to him and asked,
"What is this you are saying?"
48 Taking his stand among them he said,
"Are you such fools, O Israelites,
as to condemn a daughter of Israel without examination
and without learning the facts?
49 Return to court,
for these men have given false evidence against her."

50 So all the people hurried back.
And the rest of the elders said to him,
"Come, sit among us and inform us,
for God has given you the standing of an elder."
51 Daniel said to them,
"Separate the men far from each other,
and I will examine them."
52 When they were separated from each other,
he summoned one of them and said to him,
"You old relic of wicked days,
your sins have now come home, which you have committed in the past,
53 pronouncing unjust judgments,
condemning the innocent and acquitting the guilty,
though the Lord said,
'You shall not put an innocent and righteous person to death.' ➢

54 Now then, if you really saw this woman, tell me this:
Under what tree did you see them being intimate with each other?"
He answered, "Under a mastic tree."
55 And Daniel said, "Very well!
This lie has cost you your head,
for the angel of God has received the sentence from God
and will immediately cut you in two."

56 Then, putting him to one side,
he ordered them to bring the other.
And he said to him,
"You offspring of Canaan and not of Judah,
beauty has beguiled you and lust has perverted your heart.
57 This is how you have been treating the daughters of Israel,
and they were intimate with you through fear;
but a daughter of Judah would not tolerate your wickedness.
58 Now then, tell me:
Under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?"
He answered, "Under an evergreen oak."
59 Daniel said to him, "Very well!
This lie has cost you also your head,
for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to split you in two,
so as to destroy you both."

60 Then the whole assembly raised a great shout
and blessed God, who saves those who hope in him.
61 And they took action against the two elders,
because out of their own mouths Daniel had convicted them
of bearing false witness;
they did to them as they had wickedly planned to do to their neighbour.
62 Acting in accordance with the law of Moses,
they put them to death.
Thus innocent blood was spared that day.
63 Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna,
and so did her husband Joakim and all her relatives.
64 And from that day onward Daniel had a great reputation among the people.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

FIRST READING (shorter) Daniel 13.2, 4-6, 8, 15-16, 19-23, 28, 41-46, 48-64++

I am to die, though I have done none of the wicked things that they have charged against me! And the Lord heard her cry.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

2 Joakim married the daughter of Hilkiah, named Susanna,
a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord.
4 Joakim was very rich, and had a fine garden adjoining his house;
the Jews used to come to him because he was the most honoured of them all.
5 That year two elders from the people were appointed as judges.
6 These men were frequently at Joakim's house.
8 Every day the two elders used to see Susanna,
going in and walking about the garden, and they began to lust for her.

15 Once, while they were watching for an opportune day,
Susanna went in as before with only two maids,
and wished to bathe in the garden, for it was a hot day.
16 No one was there except the two elders,
who had hidden themselves and were watching her.
19 When the maids had gone out,
the two elders got up and ran to her.
20 They said, "We are burning with desire for you;
so give your consent, and lie with us.
21 If you refuse, we will testify against you
that a young man was with you,
and this was why you sent your maids away."

22 Susanna groaned and said,
23 "I choose not to do it;
I will fall into your hands, rather than sin in the sight of the Lord."

28 The next day, when the people gathered at the house of her husband Joakim,
the two elders came, full of their wicked plot
to have Susanna put to death.

41 Because Susanna's accusers were elders of the people and judges,
the assembly believed them and condemned Susanna to death.
42 Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said,
"O eternal God, you know what is secret
and are aware of all things before they come to be;
43 you know that these men have given false evidence against me.
And now I am to die,
though I have done none of the wicked things
that they have charged against me!" ➢

44 The Lord heard her cry.
45 Just as she was being led off to execution,
God stirred up the holy spirit of a young lad named Daniel,
46 and he shouted with a loud voice,
"I want no part in shedding this woman's blood!"
48 Taking his stand among the people he said,
"Are you such fools, O Israelites,
as to condemn a daughter of Israel without examination
and without learning the facts?
49 Return to court,
for these men have given false evidence against her."

50 So all the people hurried back.
And the rest of the elders said to him,
"Come, sit among us and inform us,
for God has given you the standing of an elder."
51 Daniel said to them,
"Separate the men far from each other, and I will examine them."
52 When they were separated from each other,
he summoned one of them and said to him,
"You old relic of wicked days,
your sins have now come home, which you have committed in the past,
53 pronouncing unjust judgments,
condemning the innocent and acquitting the guilty,
though the Lord said,
'You shall not put an innocent and righteous person to death.'
54 Now then, if you really saw this woman, tell me this:
Under what tree did you see them being intimate with each other?"
He answered, "Under a mastic tree."
55 And Daniel said, "Very well!
This lie has cost you your head,
for the angel of God has received the sentence from God
and will immediately cut you in two."

56 Then, putting him to one side,
he ordered them to bring the other.
And he said to him,
"You offspring of Canaan and not of Judah,
beauty has beguiled you and lust has perverted your heart.
57 This is how you have been treating the daughters of Israel,
and they were intimate with you through fear;
but a daughter of Judah would not tolerate your wickedness.

58 Now then, tell me:
Under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?”
He answered, “Under an evergreen oak.”
59 Daniel said to him, “Very well!
This lie has cost you also your head,
for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to split you in two,
so as to destroy you both.”

60 Then the whole assembly raised a great shout
and blessed God, who saves those who hope in him.
61 And they took action against the two elders,
because out of their own mouths
Daniel had convicted them of bearing false witness;
they did to them as they had wickedly planned to do to their neighbour.
62 Acting in accordance with the law of Moses,
they put them to death.
Thus innocent blood was spared that day.

63 Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna,
and so did her husband Joakim and all her relatives.
64 And from that day onward Daniel had a great reputation among the people.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.4ab)

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness,
I fear no evil, for you are with me.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

YEARS A and B

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ezekiel 33:11

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I do not wish the sinner to die, says the Lord,
but to turn to me and live.

GOSPEL

John 8.1-11

Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple.
All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them.
3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman
who had been caught in adultery;
and making her stand before all of them,
4 they said to him, “Teacher,
this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.
5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women.
Now what do you say?”
6 They said this to test him,
so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.
7 When they kept on questioning him,
he straightened up and said to them,
“Let anyone among you who is without sin
be the first to throw a stone at her.”

8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground.
9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one,
beginning with the elders;
and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.
10 Jesus straightened up and said to her,
“Woman, where are they?
Has no one condemned you?”
11 She said, “No one, sir.”
And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.
Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

The gospel of the Lord.

YEAR C

When the gospel of John 8.1-11 has been read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C), the following gospel may be read.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 11.25, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

GOSPEL

John 8.12-20

I am the light of the world; and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

12 Jesus spoke to the people, saying,
"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life."
13 Then the Pharisees said to him,
"You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid."

14 Jesus answered,
"Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid
because I know where I have come from and where I am going,
but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.
15 You judge by human standards;
I judge no one.
16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid;
for it is not I alone who judge,
but I and the Father who sent me.
17 In your law it is written
that the testimony of two witnesses is valid.
18 I testify on my own behalf,
and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf."

19 Then they said to him,
"Where is your Father?"
Jesus answered,
"You know neither me nor my Father.
If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

20 Jesus spoke these words while he was teaching
in the treasury of the temple,
but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

The gospel of the Lord.

252 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Numbers 21.4-9

Whoever is bitten shall look at the bronze serpent and live.

A reading from the book of Numbers.

4 From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea,
to go around the land of Edom;
but the people became impatient on the way.
5 The people spoke against God and against Moses,
"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."

6 Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.
7 The people came to Moses and said,
"We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you;
pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us."
So Moses prayed for the people.
8 And the Lord said to Moses,
"Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

9 So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone,
that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102.1-2, 15-17, 18-20 (R.1)

R. O Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come to you.

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry come to you.
2 Do not hide your face from me
in the day of my distress.
Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call. ***R.***

15 The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
16 For the Lord will build up Zion;
he will appear in his glory.
17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer. ***R.***

18 Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord:
19 that he looked down from his holy height,
from heaven the Lord looked at the earth,
20 to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

GOSPEL

John 8.21-30

When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

21 Jesus said to the people,
"I am going away, and you will search for me,
but you will die in your sin.
Where I am going, you cannot come."

22 Then the Jews said,
"Is he going to kill himself?
Is that what he means by saying,
'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"

23 Jesus said to them,
"You are from below, I am from above;
you are of this world, I am not of this world.
24 I told you that you would die in your sins,
for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he."

25 They said to him, "Who are you?"
Jesus said to them,
"Why do I speak to you at all?
26 I have much to say about you and much to condemn;
but the one who sent me is true,
and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."

➢

27 They did not understand
that he was speaking to them about the Father.
28 So Jesus said,
"When you have lifted up the Son of Man,
then you will realize that I am he,
and that I do nothing on my own,
but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.
29 And the one who sent me is with me;
he has not left me alone,
for I always do what is pleasing to him."

30 As Jesus was saying these things, many believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

253 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Daniel 3.13-20, 24, 49-50, 91-95++

***Blessed be God who sent his angel
and delivered his servants who trusted in him.***

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel.

13 Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage
commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in;
so they brought those men before the king.
14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them,
"Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
that you do not serve my gods
and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up?
15 Now if you are ready
when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre,
trigon, harp, drum,
and entire musical ensemble
to fall down and worship the statue that I have made,
well and good.
But if you do not worship,
you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire,
and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king,
"O Nebuchadnezzar,
we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter.

17 If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us
from the furnace of blazing fire
and out of your hand, O king,
let him deliver us.
18 But if not, be it known to you, O king,
that we will not serve your gods
and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage
against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
that his face was distorted.
He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary,
20 and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army
to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire.

24 The young men walked around in the midst of the flames,
singing hymns to God and blessing the Lord.

49 But the angel of the Lord came down into the furnace
to be with Azariah and his companions,
and drove the fiery flame out of the furnace,
50 and made the inside of the furnace
as though a moist wind were whistling through it.
The fire did not touch them at all
and caused them no pain or distress.

91 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly.
He said to his counsellors,
"Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?"
They answered the king,
"True, O king."
92 He replied, "But I see four men unbound,
walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt;
and the fourth has the appearance of a god."
93 Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire
and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
servants of the Most High God, come out!
Come here!"
So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.
94 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors,
and the king's counsellors gathered together
and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men;
the hair of their heads was not singed,
their tunics were not harmed,
and not even the smell of fire came from them. ➢

95 Nebuchadnezzar said,
"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him.
They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies
rather than serve and worship any god except their own God."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Daniel 3. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 (R.52b)

R. Glory and praise for ever!

52 Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors
and blessed is your glorious and holy name. ***R.***

53 Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
and to be extolled and highly glorified forever. ***R.***

54 Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
and to be extolled and highly exalted forever. ***R.***

55 Blessed are you who look into the depths
from your throne on the cherubim. ***R.***

56 Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,
to be sung and glorified forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 8:15

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart
and yield a harvest through perseverance.

GOSPEL

John 8.31-42

If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him,
"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
33 They answered him,
"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone.
What do you mean by saying,
'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them,
"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household;
the son has a place there forever.
36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

37 “I know that you are descendants of Abraham;
yet you look for an opportunity to kill me,
because there is no place in you for my word.
38 I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence;
as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”
39 They answered him,
“Abraham is our father.”

Jesus said to them,
“If you were Abraham’s children,
you would be doing what Abraham did,
40 but now you are trying to kill me,
a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.
This is not what Abraham did.
41 You are indeed doing what your father does.”
They said to him,
“We are not illegitimate children;
we have one father, God himself.”

42 Jesus said to them,
“If God were your Father, you would love me,
for I came from God and now I am here.
I did not come on my own, but he sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

254 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Genesis 17.3-9

This is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him,
"I am God Almighty;
walk before me, and be blameless.
2 And I will make my covenant between me and you,
and will make you exceedingly numerous."
3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you:
You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
5 No longer shall your name be Abram,
but your name shall be Abraham;
for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful;
and I will make nations of you,
and kings shall come from you.
7 I will establish my covenant between me and you,
and your offspring after you throughout their generations,
for an everlasting covenant,
to be God to you and to your offspring after you.
8 And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you,
the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan,
for a perpetual holding;
and I will be their God."

9 God said to Abraham,
"As for you, you shall keep my covenant,
you and your offspring after you throughout their generations."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105.4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (R.8a)

R. The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

4 Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
5 Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered. ***R.***

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen one
7 he is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth. ***R.***

8 He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
9 the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 95.8ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

GOSPEL

John 8.51-59

Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the people,
51 "Very truly, I tell you,
whoever keeps my word will never see death."
52 The Jews said to him,
"Now we know that you have a demon.
Abraham died, and so did the prophets;
yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.'
53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died?
The prophets also died.
Who do you claim to be?"

54 Jesus answered,
"If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing.
It is my Father who glorifies me,
he of whom you say, 'He is our God,'
55 though you do not know him.
But I know him;
if I would say that I do not know him,
I would be a liar like you.

➢

But I do know him and I keep his word.
56 Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day;
he saw it and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to him,
"You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"
58 Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you,
before Abraham was, I am."
59 So they picked up stones to throw at him,
but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

The gospel of the Lord.

255 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20.7, 10-13++

Praise the Lord who has delivered the life of the needy.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

In distress Jeremiah raised his voice to the Lord.
7 O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
10 For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."

11 But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

12 O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

13 Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 18.1-2ab, 2c-3, 4-5, 6 (R. see 6)

R. In my distress I called upon the Lord,
and he heard my voice.

1 I love you, O Lord, my strength.
2 The Lord is my rock,
my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge. ***R.***

The Lord is my shield,
and the source of my salvation, my stronghold.
3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
so I shall be saved from my enemies. ***R.***

4 The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of perdition assailed me;
5 the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me. ***R.***

6 In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 63b, 68b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

John 10.31-42

The religious authorities tried to arrest Jesus, but he escaped.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

31 The Jews took up stones to stone him.
32 Jesus replied,
"I have shown you many good works from the Father.
For which of these are you going to stone me?"
33 The Jews answered,
"It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you,
but for blasphemy,
because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God."
34 Jesus answered,
"Is it not written in your law,
'I said, you are gods'?
35 If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'
—and the scripture cannot be annulled—
36 can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified
and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said,
'I am God's Son'?
37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me.
38 But if I do them,
even though you do not believe me,
believe the works,
so that you may know and understand;
that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."
39 Then they tried to arrest Jesus again,
but he escaped from their hands.
40 He went away again across the Jordan
to the place where John had been baptizing earlier,
and he remained there.
41 Many came to Jesus, and they were saying,
"John performed no sign,
but everything that John said about this man was true."
42 And many believed in him there.

The gospel of the Lord.

256 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37.21-28

I will make them one nation in the land.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me.
21 Say to the people,
Thus says the Lord God:
I will take the people of Israel from the nations
among which they have gone,
and will gather them from every quarter,
and bring them to their own land.
22 I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel;
and one king shall be king over them all.
Never again shall they be two nations,
and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.

23 They shall never again defile themselves with their idols
and their detestable things,
or with any of their transgressions.
I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen,
and will cleanse them.
Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

24 My servant David shall be king over them;
and they shall all have one shepherd.
They shall follow my ordinances
and be careful to observe my statutes.
25 They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob,
in which your ancestors lived;
they and their children and their children's children
shall live there forever;
and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

26 I will make a covenant of peace with them;
it shall be an everlasting covenant with them;
and I will bless them and multiply them,
and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore.
27 My dwelling place shall be with them;
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
28 Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel,
when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Jeremiah 31.10, 11-12ab, 13 (R.10d)

R. The Lord will guard us,
like a shepherd guarding his flock.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ***R.***

11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord. ***R.***

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ezekiel 18:31

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Rid yourselves of all your sins
and make a new heart and a new spirit.

GOSPEL

John 11.45-57

Jesus was about to die to gather into one the dispersed children of God.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

45 Many of the Jews who had come with Mary
and had seen what Jesus did,
believed in him.
46 But some of them went to the Pharisees
and told them what he had done.
47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees
called a meeting of the council, and said,
"What are we to do?
This man is performing many signs.
48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him,
and the Romans will come
and destroy both our holy place and our nation."

49 But one of them, Caiaphas,
who was high priest that year, said to them,
"You know nothing at all!

50 You do not understand
that it is better for you to have one man die for the people
than to have the whole nation destroyed."
51 He did not say this on his own,
but being high priest that year
he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation,
52 and not for the nation only,
but to gather into one the dispersed children of God.
53 So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

54 Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews,
but went from there to a town called Ephraim
in the region near the wilderness;
and he remained there with the disciples.

55 Now the Passover of the Jews was near,
and many went up from the country to Jerusalem
before the Passover to purify themselves.
56 They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another
as they stood in the temple,
"What do you think?
Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?"

The gospel of the Lord.

HOLY WEEK

257 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42.1-7

First oracle of the Servant of the Lord:
He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:
1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27.1, 2, 3, 13-15 (R.1a)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? ***R.***

2 When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall. ***R.***

3 Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident. ***R.***

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Hail to you, our king;
you alone showed mercy for our sins.

GOSPEL

John 12.1-11

Leave her alone. She bought this perfume for the day of my burial.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany,
the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
2 There they gave a dinner for him.
Martha served,
and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.

3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard,
anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.
The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples
(the one who was about to betray him), said,
5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii
and the money given to the poor?"

➢

6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor,
but because he was a thief;
he kept the common purse
and used to steal what was put into it.)

7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone.
She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.
8 You always have the poor with you,
but you do not always have me.”

9 When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there,
they came not only because of Jesus
but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
10 So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well,
11 since it was on account of him
that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

258 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49.1-6

Second oracle of the Servant of the Lord: I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.

2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

3 And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
4 But I said, “I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.”

5 And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength.

6 The Lord says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71.1-2, 3, 5-6, 15+17 (R.15)

R. I will sing of your salvation.

1 In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
2 In your righteousness, deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me. ***R.***

3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked. ***R.***

5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
6 Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb. ***R.***

15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all day long.
17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Hail to you, our king, obedient to the Father;
you went to your crucifixion like a gentle lamb.

GOSPEL

John 13.21-33, 36-38

One of you will betray me; another will deny me three times.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Before the festival of the Passover,
Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father.
During the supper with his disciples,
21 Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared,
“Very truly, I tell you,
one of you will betray me.”

22 The disciples looked at one another,
uncertain of whom he was speaking.
23 One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—
was reclining next to him;
24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him
to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.
25 So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him,
“Lord, who is it?”

26 Jesus answered,
“It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread
when I have dipped it in the dish.”
So when he had dipped the piece of bread,
he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.

27 After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him.
Jesus said to him,
“Do quickly what you are going to do.”
28 Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.
29 Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse,
Jesus was telling him,
“Buy what we need for the festival”;
or, that he should give something to the poor.
30 So, after receiving the piece of bread,
he immediately went out.
And it was night.

31 When Judas had gone out, Jesus said,
“Now the Son of Man has been glorified,
and God has been glorified in him.
32 If God has been glorified in him,
God will also glorify him in himself
and will glorify him at once.

33 “Little children,
I am with you only a little longer.
You will look for me;
and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you,
‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’”

36 Simon Peter said to him,
“Lord, where are you going?”
Jesus answered,
“Where I am going, you cannot follow me now;
but you will follow afterward.”
37 Peter said to him,
“Lord, why can I not follow you now?
I will lay down my life for you.”

38 Jesus answered,
“Will you lay down your life for me?
Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows,
you will have denied me three times.”

The gospel of the Lord.

259 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50.4-9a

Third oracle of the Servant of the Lord:
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said:
4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
6 I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

7 The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
8 he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

9 It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 69.7-9, 20-21, 30+32-33 (R.13c)

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

7 It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.
8 I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.
9 It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. ***R.***

20 Insults have broken my heart,
so that I am in despair.
I looked for pity, but there was none;
and for comforters, but I found none.
21 They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. ***R.***

30 I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
32 Let the oppressed see it and be glad;
you who seek God, let your hearts revive.
33 For the Lord hears the needy,
and does not despise his own that are in bonds. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Hail to you, our king;
you alone showed mercy for our sins.

or:

Hail to you, our king, obedient to the Father;
you went to your crucifixion like a gentle lamb.

GOSPEL

Matthew 26.14-26

***The Son of Man goes as it is written of him,
but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

14 One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot,
went to the chief priests and said,
15 "What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?"
They paid him thirty pieces of silver.
16 And from that moment
he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread
the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
"Where do you want us to make the preparations
for you to eat the Passover?"
18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him,
'The Teacher says, My time is near;
I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"
19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them,
and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening,
Jesus took his place with the twelve;
21 and while they were eating, he said,
"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."
22 And they became greatly distressed
and began to say to him one after another,
"Surely not I, Lord?"

23 He answered,
"The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.
24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him,
but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
It would have been better for that one not to have been born."
25 Judas, who betrayed him, said,
"Surely not I, Rabbi?"
Jesus replied, "You have said so."

The gospel of the Lord.

THE SEASON OF EASTER

WEEKDAYS OF EASTER

OCTAVE OF EASTER

261 EASTER MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 2.14, 22-33

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come,
14 Peter, standing with the eleven,
raised his voice and addressed the crowd,
"People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem,
let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.
22 Jesus of Nazareth,
a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs
that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—
23 this man, handed over to you
according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,
you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

24 "But God raised him up, having freed him from death,
because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.
25 For David says concerning him,
'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

29 "Fellow Israelites,
I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David
that he both died and was buried,
and his tomb is with us to this day.
30 Since he was a prophet,
he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him
that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.
31 Foreseeing this,
David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

32 “This Jesus God raised up,
and of that all of us are witnesses.
33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God,
and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit,
he has poured out this that you both see and hear.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (R.1)

R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.”
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
10 For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.24

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28.8-15

Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

8 After Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had heard
the message of the angel that Jesus had been raised from the dead,
they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy,
and ran to tell his disciples. ➢

9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!”
And they came to him,
took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then Jesus said to them,
“Do not be afraid;
go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee;
there they will see me.”

11 While the women were going,
some of the guard went into the city
and told the chief priests everything that had happened.
12 After the priests had assembled with the elders,
they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers,
13 telling them, “You must say,
‘His disciples came by night
and stole him away while we were asleep.’
14 If this comes to the governor’s ears,
we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”

15 So they took the money and did as they were directed.
And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

The gospel of the Lord.

262 EASTER TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 2.36-41

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come,
14 Peter, standing with the eleven,
raised his voice and addressed the crowd,
36 “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty
that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,
this Jesus whom you crucified.”

37 Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart
and said to Peter and to the other apostles,
“Brothers, what should we do?”

38 Peter said to them,
"Repent, and be baptized every one of you
in the name of Jesus Christ
so that your sins may be forgiven;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you, for your children,
and for all who are far away,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

40 And Peter testified with many other arguments
and exhorted them, saying,
"Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."
41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized,
and that day about three thousand persons
were added to their number.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.4-5, 18-19, 20+22 (R.5b)

R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

or: Alleluia! *(Two or three times)*

4 The word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. ***R.***

18 Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
19 to deliver their souls from death,
and to keep them alive in famine. ***R.***

20 Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
22 Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.24

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL

John 20.11-18

Mary Magdalene announced to the disciples: I have seen the Lord; she told them that Jesus had said these things to her.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

11 Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb.
As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
12 and she saw two angels in white,
sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,
one at the head and the other at the feet.
13 They said to her,
"Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them,
"They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him."

14 When she had said this,
she turned around and saw Jesus standing there,
but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her,
"Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you looking for?"
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,
"Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have laid him,
and I will take him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!"
She turned and said to him in Hebrew,
"Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her,
"Do not hold on to me,
because I have not yet ascended to the Father.
But go to my brothers and say to them,
'I am ascending to my Father and your Father,
to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,
"I have seen the Lord,"
and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

263 EASTER WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 3.1-10

What I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer,
at three o'clock in the afternoon.
2 And a man lame from birth was being carried in.
People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple
called the Beautiful Gate
so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple,
he asked them for alms.
4 Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said,
"Look at us."

5 And the man fixed his attention on them,
expecting to receive something from them.
6 Peter said, "I have no silver or gold,
but what I have I give you;
in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."
And he took him by the right hand and raised him up;
and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
8 Jumping up, the man stood and began to walk,
and he entered the temple with them,
walking and leaping and praising God.

9 All the people saw him walking and praising God,
10 and they recognized him as the one who used to sit
and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple;
and they were filled with wonder and amazement
at what had happened to him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105.1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 (R.3b)

R. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works. ***R.***

3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually. ***R.***

6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
7 He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth. ***R.***

8 He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
9 the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.24

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL

Luke 24.13-35

The disciples recognized the Lord when he broke bread with them.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

13 On the first day of the week,
two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus,
about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem,
14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
15 While they were talking and discussing,
Jesus himself came near and went with them,
16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And Jesus said to them,
"What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"
They stood still, looking sad.
18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem
who does not know the things
that have taken place there in these days?”

19 Jesus asked them, “What things?”
They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over
to be condemned to death and crucified him.
21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.
Yes and besides all this,
it is now the third day since these things took place.
22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.
They were at the tomb early this morning,
23 and when they did not find his body there,
they came back
and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who said that he was alive.
24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb
and found it just as the women had said;
but they did not see him.”

25 Then Jesus said to them,
“Oh, how foolish you are,
and how slow of heart
to believe all that the prophets have declared!
26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things
and then enter into his glory?”

27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.
28 As they came near the village to which they were going,
he walked ahead as if he were going on.
29 But they urged him strongly, saying,
“Stay with us, because it is almost evening
and the day is now nearly over.”
So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.
31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus;
and he vanished from their sight. ➢

32 The two disciples said to each other,
“Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem;
and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.
34 These were saying,
“The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”

35 Then the two disciples told what had happened on the road,
and how the Lord had been made known to them
in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

264 EASTER THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 3.11-26

You killed the Author of life, whom God has now raised from the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

11 While the man who had been cured still clung to Peter and John,
all the people, utterly astonished, ran together to them
in the portico called Solomon’s Portico.
12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people,
“You Israelites,
why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us,
as though by our own power or piety we had made this man walk?
13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus,
whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate,
though he had decided to release him.

14 “But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One
and asked to have a murderer given to you,
15 and you killed the Author of life,
whom God raised from the dead.
To this we are witnesses.

16 “And it is Jesus’ name, itself, and faith in that name,
that has made strong this man, whom you see and know;
and the faith that is through Jesus
has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance,
as did also your rulers.
18 In this way God fulfilled
what he had foretold through all the prophets,
that his Messiah would suffer.

19 “Repent therefore, and turn to God
so that your sins may be wiped out,
20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,
and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you,
that is, Jesus,
21 who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration
that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.
22 Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you
from your own people a prophet like me.
You must listen to whatever he tells you.
23 And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet
will be utterly rooted out of the people.’
24 Now all the prophets, as many as have spoken,
from Samuel and those after him,
also predicted these days.

25 “You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant
that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham,
‘And in your descendants
all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

26 “When God raised up his servant,
he sent him first to you,
to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 8.2a+5, 6-7, 8-9 (R.2ab)

R. O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
4 What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them? ***R.***

5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet. ***R.***

7 All sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.24

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL

Luke 24.35-48

Thus it is written that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

35 The two disciples told the eleven and their companions
what had happened on the road to Emmaus,
and how Jesus had been made known to them
in the breaking of the bread.

36 While they were talking about this,
Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
"Peace be with you."
37 They were startled and terrified,
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
38 He said to them,
"Why are you frightened,
and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
39 Look at my hands and my feet;
see that it is I myself.
Touch me and see;
for a ghost does not have flesh and bones
as you see that I have."

40 And when he had said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.
41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering,
he said to them,
"Have you anything here to eat?"

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then Jesus said to them,
"These are my words that I spoke to you
while I was still with you—
that everything written about me in the law of Moses,
the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
46 and he said to them,
"Thus it is written,
that the Messiah is to suffer
and to rise from the dead on the third day,
47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins
is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
beginning from Jerusalem.
48 You are witnesses of these things."

The gospel of the Lord.

265 EASTER FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 4.1-12

There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people,
the priests, the captain of the temple,
and the Sadducees came to them,
2 much annoyed because they were teaching the people
and proclaiming that in Jesus
there is the resurrection of the dead.
3 So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day,
for it was already evening.

4 But many of those who heard the word believed;
and they numbered about five thousand.

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem,
6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander,
and all who were of the high-priestly family. ➢

7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired,
"By what power or by what name did you do this?"
8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,
"Rulers of the people and elders,
9 if we are questioned today
because of a good deed done to someone who was sick
and are asked how this man has been healed,
10 let it be known to all of you,
and to all the people of Israel,
that this man is standing before you in good health
by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom you crucified,
whom God raised from the dead.

11 "This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'
12 There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals
by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118.1-2+4, 22-24, 25-27a (R.22)

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
2 Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."
4 Let those who fear the Lord say,
"His steadfast love endures forever." ***R.***

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. ***R.***

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
27 The Lord is God,
and he has given us light. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.24

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL

John 21.1-14

Jesus took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Jesus showed himself again to the disciples
by the Sea of Tiberias;
and he showed himself in this way.

2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter,
Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee,
the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.”
They said to him, “We will go with you.”
They went out and got into the boat,
but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach;
but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.
5 Jesus said to them,
“Children, you have no fish, have you?”
They answered him, “No.”
6 He said to them,
“Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”
So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in
because there were so many fish.

7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter,
“It is the Lord!”
When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord,
he put on some clothes, for he was naked,
and jumped into the sea.
8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish,
for they were not far from the land,
only about ninety metres.

9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there,
with fish on it, and bread.

➢

10 Jesus said to them,
"Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."
11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore,
full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them;
and though there were so many, the net was not torn.
12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."
Now none of the disciples dared to ask him,
"Who are you?"
because they knew it was the Lord.
13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them,
and did the same with the fish.
14 This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples
after he was raised from the dead.

The gospel of the Lord.

266 EASTER SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 4.13-21

Peter and John said: We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

13 Now when the rulers, elders, and scribes
saw the boldness of Peter and John
and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men,
they were amazed
and recognized them as companions of Jesus.
14 When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them,
they had nothing to say in opposition.

15 So they ordered Peter and John to leave the council
while they discussed the matter with one another.

16 They said, "What will we do with them?
For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem
that a notable sign has been done through them;
we cannot deny it.
17 But to keep it from spreading further among the people,
let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."

18 So they called the two apostles and ordered them
not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered them,
"Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God,
you must judge;
20 for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard."
21 After threatening them again,
they let them go,
finding no way to punish them because of the people,
for all of them praised God for what had happened.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 118.1+14-15, 16ab-18, 19-21 (R.21a)

R. I praise you, Lord, for you have answered me.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
14 The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
15 There are glad songs of victory
in the tents of the righteous. ***R.***

16 The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.
17 I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.
18 The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death. ***R.***

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
20 This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.24

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

GOSPEL

Mark 16.9-15

Jesus said to the disciples: Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

9 Now after Jesus rose early on the first day of the week,
he appeared first to Mary Magdalene,
from whom he had cast out seven demons.
10 She went out and told those who had been with him,
while they were mourning and weeping.

11 But when the disciples heard that he was alive
and had been seen by her,
they would not believe it.
12 After this Jesus appeared in another form to two of them,
as they were walking into the country.
13 And they went back and told the rest,
but they did not believe them.

14 Later he appeared to the eleven themselves
as they were sitting at the table;
and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness,
because they had not believed those who saw him
after he had risen.
15 And Jesus said to them,
"Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

The gospel of the Lord.

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

267 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 4.23-31

When the disciples had prayed, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

23 After Peter and John were released by the rulers and elders,
they went to their friends
and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.
24 When their companions heard it,
they raised their voices together to God and said,
"Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth,
the sea, and everything in them,
25 it is you who said by the Holy Spirit
through our ancestor David, your servant:
'Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?
26 The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah.'
27 For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate,
with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,
gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,
28 to do whatever your hand
and your plan had predestined to take place.

29 "And now, Lord, look at their threats,
and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness,
30 while you stretch out your hand to heal,
and signs and wonders are performed
through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 When they had prayed,
the place in which they were gathered together was shaken;
and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke the word of God with boldness.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 2.1-3, 4-6, 7-9 (R. see 12d)

R. Happy are all who put their trust in the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Why do the nations conspire,
and the peoples plot in vain?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,
3 "Let us burst their bonds asunder,
and cast their cords from us." ***R.***

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord has them in derision.
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
6 "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill." ***R.***

7 I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3.1

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

GOSPEL

John 3.1-8

No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him,
"Rabbi,
we know that you are a teacher who has come from God;
for no one can do these signs that you do
apart from the presence of God."
3 Jesus answered him,
"Very truly, I tell you,
no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

4 Nicodemus said to him,
"How can anyone be born after having grown old?
Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"
5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you,
no one can enter the kingdom of God
without being born of water and Spirit.
6 What is born of the flesh is flesh,
and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
7 Do not be astonished that I said to you,
'You must be born from above.'
8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.

268 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 4.32-37

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

32 The whole group of those who believed
were of one heart and soul,
and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions,
but everything they owned was held in common.

33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,
and great grace was upon them all.
34 There was not a needy person among them,
for as many as owned lands or houses sold them
and brought the proceeds of what was sold.
35 They laid it at the apostles' feet,
and it was distributed to each as any had need.

36 There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph,
to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas
(which means "son of encouragement").
37 He sold a field that belonged to him,
then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 93.1ab, 1c-2, 5 (R.1a)

R. The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 The Lord is king,
he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed,
he is girded with strength. ***R.***

He has established the world;
it shall never be moved;
2 your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting. ***R.***

5 Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forevermore. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Son of Man must be lifted up,
so that all who believe in him may have eternal life.

GOSPEL

John 3.7b-15

No one has ascended into heaven
except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
7 "Do not be astonished that I said to you,
'You must be born from above.'
8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to him,
"How can these things be?"
10 Jesus answered him,
"Are you a teacher of Israel,
and yet you do not understand these things?

11 "Very truly, I tell you,
we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen;
yet you do not receive our testimony.
12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe,
how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

13 “No one has ascended into heaven
except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.

269 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 5.17-26

The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

17 The high priest and all who were with him
(that is, the sect of the Sadducees),
being filled with jealousy,
18 arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.
19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors,
brought them out, and said,
20 “Go, stand in the temple
and tell the people the whole message about this life.”
21 When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak
and went on with their teaching.

When the high priest and those with him arrived,
they called together the council
and the whole body of the elders of Israel,
and sent to the prison to have them brought.
22 But when the temple police went there,
they did not find them in the prison;
so they returned and reported,
23 “We found the prison securely locked
and the guards standing at the doors,
but when we opened them, we found no one inside.”

24 Now when the captain of the temple
and the chief priests heard these words,
they were perplexed about them,
wondering what might be going on.

➢

25 Then someone arrived and announced,
"Look, the men whom you put in prison
are standing in the temple and teaching the people!"
26 Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them,
but without violence,
for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R.6a)

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 3.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

GOSPEL

John 3.16-21

Indeed, God did send the Son into the world that the world might be saved through him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
16 "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.

17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
18 Those who believe in him are not condemned;
but those who do not believe are condemned already,
because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 "And this is the judgment,
that the light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light
because their deeds were evil.
20 For all who do evil hate the light
and do not come to the light,
so that their deeds may not be exposed.

21 "But those who do what is true come to the light,
so that it may be clearly seen
that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord.

270 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 5.27-33

We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

27 When the temple police had brought the apostles
from preaching in the temple,
they had them stand before the council.
The high priest questioned them, saying,

➢

28 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,
yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching
and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.”

29 But Peter and the apostles answered,
“We must obey God rather than any human authority.
30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus,
whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.
31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour
that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.
32 And we are witnesses to these things,
and so is the Holy Spirit
whom God has given to those who obey him.”

33 When the members of the council heard this,
they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1+8, 16-17, 18-19 (R.6a)

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles. ***R.***

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20.29

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

GOSPEL

John 3.31-36

The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
31 "The one who comes from above is above all;
the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth
and speaks about earthly things.
The one who comes from heaven is above all.
32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard,
yet no one accepts his testimony.
33 Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this,
that God is true.
34 He whom God has sent speaks the words of God,
for he gives the Spirit without measure.

35 "The Father loves the Son
and has placed all things in his hands.
36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life;
whoever disobeys the Son will not see life,
but must endure God's wrath."

The gospel of the Lord.

271 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 5.34-42

The apostles rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles were being questioned by the high priest before the council.
34 But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel,
a teacher of the law, respected by all the people,
stood up and ordered the apostles to be put outside for a short time.

35 Then he said to the members of the council,
"Fellow Israelites,
consider carefully what you propose to do to these men.
36 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody,
and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him;
but he was killed,
and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. ➢

37 After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census
and got people to follow him;
he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered.
38 So in the present case, I tell you,
keep away from these men and let them alone;
because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin,
it will fail;
39 but if it is of God,
you will not be able to overthrow them
—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!"

They were convinced by him,
40 and when they had called in the apostles,
they had them flogged.
Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus,
and let them go.

41 As they left the council,
the apostles rejoiced that they were considered worthy
to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name.

42 And every day in the temple and at home
they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27.1, 4, 13-14 (R. see 4ab)

R. One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid? ***R.***

4 One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple. ***R.***

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.4b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL

John 6.1-15

Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks;
he distributed them to those who were seated, as much as they wanted.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee,
also called the Sea of Tiberias.
2 A large crowd kept following him,
because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.
3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.
5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him,
Jesus said to Philip,
"Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"
6 He said this to test him,
for he himself knew what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him,
"Six months' wages would not buy enough bread
for each of them to get a little."
8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him,
9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish.
But what are they among so many people?"
10 Jesus said, "Make the people sit down."
Now there was a great deal of grass in the place;
so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

11 Then Jesus took the loaves,
and when he had given thanks,
he distributed them to those who were seated;
so also the fish,
as much as they wanted.

12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples,
"Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."
13 So they gathered them up,
and from the fragments of the five barley loaves,
left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ➢

14 When the people saw the sign that he had done,
they began to say,
“This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”
15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come
and take him by force to make him king,
he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

The gospel of the Lord.

272 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 6.1-7

Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number,
the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews
because their widows were being neglected
in the daily distribution of food.

2 And the twelve called together
the whole community of the disciples and said,
“It is not right that we should neglect the word of God
in order to wait on tables.
3 Therefore, friends,
select from among yourselves seven men of good standing,
full of the Spirit and of wisdom,
whom we may appoint to this task,
4 while we, for our part,
will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.”

5 What they said pleased the whole community,
and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,
together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor,
Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert of Antioch.
6 They had these men stand before the apostles,
who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33.1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (R.22)

R. Lord, let you mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
2 Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. ***R.***

4 For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. ***R.***

18 Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
19 to deliver their souls from death,
and to keep them alive in famine. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;
he has shown pity on all people.

GOSPEL

John 6.16-21

The disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After feeding the crowd, Jesus withdrew to the mountain by himself.
16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea,
17 got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum.
It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

18 The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.
19 When they had rowed about five or six kilometres,
they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat,
and they were terrified.
20 But Jesus said to them,
"It is I; do not be afraid."
21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat,
and immediately the boat reached the land
toward which they were going.

The gospel of the Lord.

THIRD WEEK OF EASTER

273 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 6.8-15

Stephen spoke with the wisdom of the Spirit, which others could not withstand.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

8 Stephen, full of grace and power,
did great wonders and signs among the people.
9 Then some of those
who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called),
Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia,
stood up and argued with Stephen.
10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit
with which he spoke.

11 Then they secretly instigated some men to say,
"We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."
12 They stirred up the people
as well as the elders and the scribes;
then they suddenly confronted him,
seized him, and brought him before the council.

13 They set up false witnesses who said,
"This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law;
14 for we have heard him say
that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place
and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us."

15 And all who sat in the council looked intently at Stephen,
and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.23-24, 26-27, 29-30 (R.1b)

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

23 Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.
24 Your decrees are my delight,
they are my counsellors. ***R.***

26 When I told of my ways, you answered me;
teach me your statutes.
27 Make me understand the way of your precepts,
and I will meditate on your wondrous works. ***R.***

29 Put false ways far from me;
and graciously teach me your law.
30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I set your ordinances before me. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.4b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL

John 6.22-29

Do not work for the food that perishes,
but for the food that endures for eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After Jesus had fed the crowd from the five loaves,
he crossed the lake by walking on the sea.
22 The next day
the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea
saw that there had been only one boat there.
They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples,
but that his disciples had gone away alone.

23 Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place
where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.
24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus
nor his disciples were there,
they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum
looking for Jesus.

➢

25 When they found Jesus on the other side of the sea,
they said to him,
“Rabbi, when did you come here?”
26 Jesus answered them,
“Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me,
not because you saw signs,
but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
27 Do not work for the food that perishes,
but for the food that endures for eternal life,
which the Son of Man will give you.
For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

28 Then they said to him,
“What must we do to perform the works of God?”
29 Jesus answered them,
“This is the work of God,
that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

The gospel of the Lord.

274 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 7.51 - 8.1a

Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen stood before the council and replied to his accusers,
51 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears,
you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit,
just as your ancestors used to do.
52 Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute?
They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One,
and now you have become his betrayers and murderers.
53 You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels,
and yet you have not kept it.”

54 When they heard these things, they became enraged
and ground their teeth at Stephen.

55 But filled with the Holy Spirit,
he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 “Look,” he said,
“I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

57 But they covered their ears,
and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him;
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet
of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed,
“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,
“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”
When he had said this, he died.

1 And Saul approved of their killing him.
That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem,
and all except the apostles
were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3, 5ab+6b+7a, 16+20ab (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name’s sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
6 I trust in the Lord.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love. ***R.***

16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.
20 In the shelter of your presence
you hide them from human plots. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.35ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

GOSPEL

John 6.30-35

It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,
but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After Jesus had fed the crowd from the five loaves,
30 the people said to Jesus,
"What sign are you going to give us then,
so that we may see it and believe you?
What work are you performing?
31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness;
as it is written,
'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you,
it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven,
but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.
33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world."

34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."
35 Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gospel of the Lord.

275 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 8.1b-8

The disciples went from place to place proclaiming the good news.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day that Stephen was killed,
1 a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem,
and all except the apostles
were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.

2 Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him.
3 But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house;
dragging off both men and women,
he committed them to prison.

4 Now those who were scattered went from place to place,
proclaiming the word.
5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria
and proclaimed the Messiah to them.
6 The crowds with one accord
listened eagerly to what was said by Philip,
hearing and seeing the signs that he did,
7 for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks,
came out of many who were possessed;
and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured.
8 So there was great joy in that city.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66.1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a (R.1)

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
2 sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.
3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!" ***R.***

4 All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.
5 Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. ***R.***

6 He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him,
7 who rules by his might forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 6.40

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who believe in the Son have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day, says the Lord.

GOSPEL John 6.35-40

This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who believe in the Son may have eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After Jesus had fed the crowd with the five loaves,
35 he said to the people,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.
36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.
37 Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;
38 for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will,
but the will of him who sent me.
39 And this is the will of him who sent me,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,
but raise it up on the last day.

40 "This is indeed the will of my Father,
that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life;
and I will raise them up on the last day."

The gospel of the Lord.

276 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 8.26-40

"Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"
"If you believe with all your heart, you may."

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

26 An angel of the Lord said to Philip,
"Get up and go toward the south
to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."
(This is a wilderness road.)
27 So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch,
a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,
in charge of her entire treasury.
He had come to Jerusalem to worship
28 and was returning home;
seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip,
"Go over to this chariot and join it."
30 So Philip ran up to it
and heard the official reading the prophet Isaiah.
Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
31 The official replied,
"How can I, unless someone guides me?"
And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

34 The eunuch asked Philip,
"About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this,
about himself or about someone else?"
35 Then Philip began to speak,
and starting with this scripture,
he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ➢

36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water;
and the eunuch said,
“Look, here is water!
What is to prevent me from being baptized?”
37 And Philip said,
“If you believe with all your heart, you may.”
And he replied,
“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

38 He commanded the chariot to stop,
and both of them, Philip and the eunuch,
went down into the water,
and Philip baptized him.
39 When they came up out of the water,
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;
the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
40 But Philip found himself at Azotus,
and as he was passing through the region,
he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 66.8-9, 16-17, 20 (R.1)

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

8 Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard,
9 who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip. ***R.***

16 Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
17 I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue. ***R.***

20 Blessed be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.51

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

GOSPEL

John 6.44-51

***I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Those who had been fed by the five loaves
followed Jesus to the other side of the lake
and asked him for a sign that they should believe in him.
Jesus said to them,
44 "No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me;
and I will raise that person up on the last day.
45 It is written in the prophets,
'And they shall all be taught by God.'
Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.
46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God;
he has seen the Father.

47 "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life.
48 I am the bread of life.
49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.
50 This is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that one may eat of it and not die.

51 "I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will live forever;
and the bread that I will give for the life of the world
is my flesh."

The gospel of the Lord.

277 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 9.1-20

Go, for Saul is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 Saul, still breathing threats and murder
against the disciples of the Lord,
went to the high priest
2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus,
so that if he found any who belonged to the Way,
men or women,
he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,
"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"
5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"
The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."
7 The men who were travelling with him stood speechless
because they heard the voice but saw no one.
8 Saul got up from the ground,
and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;
so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.
The Lord said to him in a vision,
"Ananias."
He answered, "Here I am, Lord."
11 The Lord said to him,
"Get up and go to the street called Straight,
and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul.
At this moment he is praying,
12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in
and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

13 But Ananias answered,
"Lord, I have heard from many about this man,
how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;

14 and here he has authority from the chief priests
to bind all who invoke your name."
15 But the Lord said to Ananias,
"Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen
to bring my name before Gentiles and kings
and before the people of Israel;
16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17 So Ananias went and entered the house.
He laid his hands on Saul and said,
"Brother Saul,
the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here,
has sent me so that you may regain your sight
and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes,
and his sight was restored.
Then he got up and was baptized,
19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days Saul was with the disciples in Damascus,
20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying,
"Jesus is the Son of God."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples! ***R.***

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.56

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me, and I in them, says the Lord.

GOSPEL

John 6.52-59

My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

52 The Jews disputed among themselves, saying,
"How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
53 So Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you,
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you have no life in you.
54 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day;
55 for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

56 "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.
57 Just as the living Father sent me,
and I live because of the Father,
so whoever eats me will live because of me.
58 This is the bread that came down from heaven,
not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died.
But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

59 Jesus said these things while he was teaching
in the synagogue at Capernaum.

The gospel of the Lord.

278 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 9.31-42

The church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

31 The church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace
and was built up.
Living in the fear of the Lord
and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,
it increased in numbers.

32 Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers,
he came down also to the saints living in Lydda.

33 There he found a man named Aeneas,
who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralyzed.
34 Peter said to him,
"Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you;
get up and make your bed!"
And immediately he got up.
35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him
and turned to the Lord.

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha,
which in Greek is Dorcas.
She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.
37 At that time she became ill and died.
When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.
38 Since Lydda was near Joppa,
the disciples, who heard that Peter was there,
sent two men to him with the request,
"Please come to us without delay."
39 So Peter got up and went with them;
and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs.
All the widows stood beside him,
weeping and showing tunics and other clothing
that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

40 Peter put all of them outside,
and then he knelt down and prayed.
He turned to the body and said,
"Tabitha, get up."
Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.
41 He gave her his hand and helped her up.
Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.
42 This became known throughout Joppa,
and many believed in the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116.12-13, 14-15, 16-17 (R.12)

R. What return can I make to the Lord
for all that he gives to me?

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

12 What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord. ***R.***

14 I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
15 Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones. ***R.***

16 O Lord, I am your servant;
the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6.63c, 68c

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL

John 6.53, 60-69++

Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

53 Jesus said to the people,
“Very truly, I tell you,
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood,
you have no life in you.”

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said,
“This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”
61 But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it,
said to them,
“Does this offend you?
62 Then what if you were to see the Son of Man
ascending to where he was before?

63 “It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.
The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
64 But among you there are some who do not believe.”

For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe,
and who was the one that would betray him.
65 And he said,
“For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me
unless it is granted by the Father.”

66 Because of this many of his disciples turned back
and no longer went about with him.
67 So Jesus asked the twelve,
“Do you also wish to go away?”
68 Simon Peter answered him,
“Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

FOURTH WEEK OF EASTER

279 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 11.1-18

God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea
heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.
2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem,
the circumcised believers criticized him, saying,
3 "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,
5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying,
and in a trance I saw a vision.
There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven,
being lowered by its four corners;
and it came close to me.
6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals,
beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.
7 I also heard a voice saying to me,
'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'
8 But I replied,
'By no means, Lord;
for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'
9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven,
'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'
10 This happened three times;
then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

11 "At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea,
arrived at the house where we were.
12 The Spirit told me to go with them
and not to make a distinction between them and us.
These six brothers also accompanied me,
and we entered the man's house.
13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying,
'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;

14 he will give you a message
by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

15 "And as I began to speak,
the Holy Spirit fell upon them
just as it had upon us at the beginning.
16 And I remembered the word of the Lord,
how he had said,
'John baptized with water,
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
17 If then God gave them the same gift
that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,
who was I that I could hinder God?"

18 When they heard this, they were silenced.
And they praised God, saying,
"Then God has given even to the Gentiles
the repentance that leads to life."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 42.1-2; 43.3, 4 (R.42.2a)

R. My soul is thirsting for the living God.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul thirsts for you, O God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and behold the face of God? ***R.***

3 O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling. ***R.***

4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.14

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

YEARS B AND C

When the gospel of John 10.1-10 is read on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A, the alternate gospel, John 10.11-18, is used.

GOSPEL

John 10.1-10

I am the gate for the sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees:
1 "Very truly, I tell you,
anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate
but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him,
and the sheep hear his voice.
He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
4 When he has brought out all his own,
he goes ahead of them,
and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
5 They will not follow a stranger,
but they will run from him
because they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them,
but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
7 So again Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits;
but the sheep did not listen to them.
9 I am the gate.
Whoever enters by me will be saved,
and will come in and go out and find pasture.
10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The gospel of the Lord.

YEAR A

For use in Year A, when the gospel John 10.1-10 was read on the preceding Sunday.

GOSPEL

John 10.11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees,
11 "I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
12 The hired hand,
who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep,
sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away
—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
13 The hired hand runs away
because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me,
15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.
And I lay down my life for the sheep.
16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.
I must bring them also,
and they will listen to my voice.
So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

17 "For this reason the Father loves me,
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
18 No one takes it from me,
but I lay it down of my own accord.
I have power to lay it down,
and I have power to take it up again.
I have received this command from my Father."

The gospel of the Lord.

280 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 11.19-26

Coming to Antioch, the disciples spoke to the Hellenists, proclaiming the Lord Jesus.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution
that took place over Stephen
travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch,
and they spoke the word to no one except Jews.
20 But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who,
on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists,
proclaiming the Lord Jesus.
21 The hand of the Lord was with them,
and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord.

22 News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem,
and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.
23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced,
and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord
with steadfast devotion;
24 for he was a good man,
full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.
And a great many people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.
So it was that for an entire year
they met with the church and taught a great many people,
and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 87.1-3, 4-5, 6-7 (R.117.1a)

R. All you nations, praise the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 On the holy mount stands the city the Lord founded;
2 the Lord loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
3 Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God. ***R.***

4 Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon;
Philistia too, and Tyre, with Ethiopia
"This one was born there," they say.
5 And of Zion it shall be said,
"This one and that one were born in it";
for the Most High himself will establish it. ***R.***

6 The Lord records, as he registers the peoples,
"This one was born there."
7 Singers and dancers alike say,
"All my springs are in you." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to me, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

John 10.22-30

The Father and I are one.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.
It was winter,
23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him,
"How long will you keep us in suspense?
If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered,
"I have told you, and you do not believe.
The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;
26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.
27 My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and they follow me. ➢

28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.
No one will snatch them out of my hand.
29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else,
and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.
30 The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

281 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 12.24 - 13.5a

Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

24 The word of God continued to advance and gain adherents.
25 Then after completing their mission
Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem
and brought with them John,
whose other name was Mark.

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers:
Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene,
Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul.
2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting,
the Holy Spirit said,
"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul
for the work to which I have called them."

3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them
and sent them off.
4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit,
they went down to Seleucia;
and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
5 When they arrived at Salamis,
they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.
And they had John also to assist them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 67.1-2,3a+4, 5+7 (R. see 3a)

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 May God be gracious and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us.
2 that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations. ***R.***

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God.
4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. ***R.***

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
7 May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8.12

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL

John 12.44-50

I have come as light into the world.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Although Jesus had performed so many signs in the presence of the people,
they did not believe in him.

44 Then Jesus cried aloud:
"Whoever believes in me believes not in me
but in him who sent me.
45 And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.
46 I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.

47 "I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them,
for I came not to judge the world,
but to save the world.
48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge;
on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, ➢

49 for I have not spoken on my own,
but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment
about what to say and what to speak.
50 And I know that his commandment is eternal life.
What I speak, therefore,
I speak just as the Father has told me."

The gospel of the Lord.

282 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 13.13-25

Of David's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

13 Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos
and came to Perga in Pamphylia.
John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem;
14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia.
And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.
15 After the reading of the law and the prophets,
the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying,
"Brothers,
if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it."

16 So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:
"You Israelites, and others who fear God,
listen.
17 The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors
and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt,
and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.
18 For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.
19 After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan,
he gave them their land as an inheritance
20 for about four hundred fifty years.
After that he gave them judges
until the time of the prophet Samuel.
21 Then they asked for a king;
and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin,
who reigned for forty years.

22 When he had removed him, God made David their king.
In his testimony about David, God said,
'I have found David, son of Jesse,
to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.'

23 "Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus,
as he promised;
24 before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance
to all the people of Israel.
25 And as John was finishing his work, he said,
'What do you suppose that I am?
I am not he.
No, but one is coming after me;
I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.2-3, 21-22, 25+27 (R.2a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

20 I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
21 my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him. ***R.***

24 My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his name shall be exalted.
26 He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!" ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 1.5ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead;
you have loved us and washed away our sins in your blood.

GOSPEL

John 13.16-20

Whoever receives one whom I send, receives me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples,
he returned to the table and said to them,
16 "Very truly, I tell you,
servants are not greater than their master,
nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.
17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

18 "I am not speaking of all of you;
I know whom I have chosen.
But it is to fulfill the scripture,
'The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'
19 I tell you this now, before it occurs,
so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he.
20 Very truly, I tell you,
whoever receives one whom I send receives me;
and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

283 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 13.26-33

God has fulfilled what was promised to our ancestors, by raising Jesus.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Paul and his companion reached Antioch,
they went to the synagogue.
Paul was invited to address the people,
so he stood up and began to speak.

26 "My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family,
and others who fear God,
to us the message of this salvation has been sent.
27 Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders
did not recognize Jesus or understand the words of the prophets
that are read every sabbath,
they fulfilled those words by condemning him.

28 Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death,
they asked Pilate to have him killed.
29 When they had carried out everything that was written about him,
they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

30 "But God raised him from the dead;
31 and for many days he appeared
to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem,
and they are now his witnesses to the people.
32 And we bring you the good news
that what God promised to our ancestors
33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus;
as also it is written in the second psalm,
'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 2.6-7, 8-9, 10-11 (R.7)

R. You are my Son; this day I have begotten you.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

6 "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."
7 I will tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to me, "You are my son;
today I have begotten you." ***R.***

8 "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron,
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." ***R.***

10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the Lord with fear
and with trembling. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.6

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL

John 14.1-6

I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father.
During the supper he said to his disciples:
1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?
3 And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.
4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him,
"Lord, we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way?"
6 Jesus said to him,
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

The gospel of the Lord.

284 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 13.44-52

We are now to bring the word of God to the Gentiles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

44 The next sabbath
almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
45 But when the Jews saw the crowds,
they were filled with jealousy;
and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul.

46 Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying,
"It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you.

Since you reject it
and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life,
we are now turning to the Gentiles.
47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,
'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles,
so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

48 When the Gentiles heard this,
they were glad and praised the word of the Lord;
and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.
49 Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing
and the leading men of the city,
and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas,
and drove them out of their region.
51 So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them,
and went to Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (R.3)

R. All the ends of the earth have seen
the saving power of God.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8.31b-32

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

If you stay in my word, you will indeed be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

GOSPEL

John 14.7-14

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father.
During the supper he said to his disciples:
7 "If you know me, you will know my Father also.
From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him,
"Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."
9 Jesus said to him,
"Have I been with you all this time, Philip,
and you still do not know me?
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.
How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?
10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me?
The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own;
but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
but if you do not,
then believe me because of the works themselves.

12 "Very truly, I tell you,
the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do
and, in fact, will do greater works than these,
because I am going to the Father.
13 I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The gospel of the Lord.

FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

285 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 14.5-18

We bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas spoke in such a way
that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers.
But the residents of the city were divided,
5 so that when an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews,
with their rulers,
to mistreat them and to stone them,
6 the apostles learned of it
and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia,
and to the surrounding country;
7 and there they continued proclaiming the good news.

8 In Lystra there was a man sitting
who could not use his feet and had never walked,
for he had been crippled from birth.
9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking.
And Paul, looking at him intently
and seeing that he had faith to be healed,
10 said in a loud voice,
"Stand upright on your feet."
And the man sprang up and began to walk.
11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done,
they shouted in the Lycaonian language,
"The gods have come down to us in human form!"

12 Barnabas they called Zeus,
and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.
13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city,
brought oxen and garlands to the gates;
he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice.
14 When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it,
they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting,
15 "Friends, why are you doing this?
We are mortals just like you,
and we bring you good news,
that you should turn from these worthless things ➢

to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth
and the sea and all that is in them.
16 In past generations
God allowed all the nations to follow their own ways;
17 yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good
—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons,
and filling you with food and your hearts with joy."
18 Even with these words,
they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 115.1-2, 3-4, 15-16 (R.1)

R. Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Not to us, O Lord, not to us,
but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.
2 Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?" ***R.***

3 Our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he pleases.
4 Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands. ***R.***

15 May you be blessed by the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
16 The heavens are the Lord's heavens,
but the earth he has given to human beings. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.26

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things
and remind you of all I have said to you.

GOSPEL

John 14.21-26

The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Before the festival of the Passover,
Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father.
During the supper, Jesus said to the disciples:
21 "They who have my commandments and keep them
are those who love me;
and those who love me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him,
"Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us,
and not to the world?"
23 Jesus answered him,
"Those who love me will keep my word,
and my Father will love them,
and we will come to them and make our home with them.
24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
and the word that you hear is not mine,
but is from the Father who sent me.

25 "I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

286 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 14.19-28

Paul and Barnabas called the church together and related all that God had done with them.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Paul and Barnabas were at Lystra
19 some Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds.
Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city,
supposing that he was dead.

➢

20 But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city.
The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 After Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the good news to that city
and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra,
then on to Iconium and Antioch.
22 There they strengthened the souls of the disciples
and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying,
"It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God."
23 And after they had appointed elders for them in each church,
with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord
in whom they had come to believe.

24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.
25 When they had spoken the word in Perga,
they went down to Attalia.
26 From there they sailed back to Antioch,
where they had been commended to the grace of God
for the work that they had completed.
27 When they arrived, they called the church together
and related all that God had done with them,
and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.
28 And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145.10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd+21 (R.12a)

R. Your friends tell the glory of your kingship, Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power. ***R.***

12 They make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations. ***R.***

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.
21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 24.46, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead,
and so enter into his glory.

GOSPEL

John 14.27-31a

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When the hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
Jesus said to the disciples:
27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
28 You heard me say to you,
'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'
If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father,
because the Father is greater than I.
29 And now I have told you this before it occurs,
so that when it does occur, you may believe.

30 "I will no longer talk much with you,
for the ruler of this world is coming.
He has no power over me;
31 but I do as the Father has commanded me,
so that the world may know that I love the Father.
Rise, let us be on our way."

The gospel of the Lord.

287 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 15.1-6

Paul and Barnabas and others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 Certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers,
"Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses,
you cannot be saved."
2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them,
Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed
to go up to Jerusalem
to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.

3 So they were sent on their way by the church,
and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria,
they reported the conversion of the Gentiles,
and brought great joy to all the believers.

4 When they came to Jerusalem,
they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders,
and they reported all that God had done with them.
5 But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees
stood up and said,
"It is necessary for them to be circumcised
and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122.1-2, 3-4a, 4b-5 (R.1)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. ***R.***

3 Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
4 To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. ***R.***

As was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.4a, 5b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

GOSPEL

John 15.1-8

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When the hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father,
Jesus said to the disciples:
1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.
2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.
Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

4 "Abide in me as I abide in you.
Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself
unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you unless you abide in me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing.
6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch
and withers;
such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask for whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.

8 "My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

288 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 15.7-21

We should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles and the elders met together
to consider the conversion of the Gentiles.
7 After there had been much debate,
Peter stood up and said to them,
"My brothers,
you know that in the early days God made a choice among you,
that I should be the one
through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news
and become believers.
8 And God, who knows the human heart,
testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit,
just as he did to us;
9 and in cleansing their hearts by faith
he has made no distinction between them and us.
10 Now therefore why are you putting God to the test
by placing on the neck of the disciples
a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?
11 On the contrary,
we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus,
just as they will."

12 The whole assembly kept silence,
and listened to Barnabas and Paul
as they told of all the signs and wonders
that God had done through them among the Gentiles.

13 After they finished speaking, James replied,
"My brothers, listen to me.
14 Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles,
to take from among them a people for his name.
15 This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,
16 'After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
17 so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord,
18 who has been making these things known from long ago.'

19 "Therefore I have reached the decision
that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God,
20 but we should write to them to abstain
only from things polluted by idols and from fornication
and from whatever has been strangled and from blood.
21 For in every city, for generations past,
Moses has had those who proclaim him,
for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 10 (R.3)

R. Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name. ***R.***

Tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples. ***R.***

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10.27

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL

John 15.9-11

Abide in my love, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Before the festival of the Passover,
Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father.
During the supper, Jesus said to the disciples:
9 "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.
10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.
11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete."

The gospel of the Lord.

289 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 15.22-31

It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us
to impose on you no further burden than the essentials.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

22 The apostles and the elders,
with the consent of the whole church,
decided to choose men from among their members
and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.
They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas,
leaders among the brothers,
23 with the following letter:
"The brothers, both the apostles and the elders,
to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia,
greetings.
24 Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us,
though with no instructions from us,
have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds,
25 we have decided unanimously to choose representatives
and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
26 who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas,
who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.
28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us
to impose on you no further burden than these essentials:
29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols
and from blood and from what is strangled
and from fornication.
If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.
Farewell."

30 So they were sent off and went down to Antioch.
When they gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter.
31 When its members read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 57.7, 8, 9-10, 11 (R.9a)

R. I will praise you among the nations, O Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

7 My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast.
I will sing and make music. ***R.***

8 Awake, my soul!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn. ***R.***

9 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
10 For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds. ***R.***

11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.15b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

GOSPEL

John 15.12-17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Before the hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
Jesus said to the disciples,
12 "This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15 I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 "You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

290 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 16.1-10

Come over to Macedonia and help us.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul left Antioch, taking with him Silas,
1 and went on to Derbe and to Lystra,
where there was a disciple named Timothy,
the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer;
but his father was a Greek.
2 He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium.
3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him;
and he took him and had him circumcised
because of the Jews who were in those places,
for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4 As they went from town to town,
they delivered to them for observance
the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders
who were in Jerusalem.
5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith
and increased in numbers daily.

6 They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia,
having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.
7 When they had come opposite Mysia,
they attempted to go into Bithynia,
but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them;
8 so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

9 During the night Paul had a vision:
there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying,
"Come over to Macedonia and help us."
10 When he had seen the vision,
we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia,
being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 100.1-2, 3, 5 (R.1a)

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing. ***R.***

3 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ***R.***

5 For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3.1

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

GOSPEL

John 15.18-21

You do not belong to the world; I have chosen you out of the world.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Before the hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
Jesus said to the disciples,
18 "If the world hates you,
be aware that it hated me before it hated you.
19 If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own.
Because you do not belong to the world,
but I have chosen you out of the world
—therefore the world hates you.

20 "Remember the word that I said to you,
'Servants are not greater than their master.'
If they persecuted me, they will persecute you;
if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.
21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name,
because they do not know him who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

291 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 16.11-15

The Lord opened Lydia's heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

11 With Paul we set sail from Troas
and took a straight course to Samothrace,
the following day to Neapolis,
12 and from there to Philippi,
which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.
We remained in this city for some days.

13 On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river,
where we supposed there was a place of prayer;
and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.
14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us;
she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth.
The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.
15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying,
"If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord,
come and stay at my home."
And she prevailed upon us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 149.1-2, 3-4, 5-6a+9b (R.4a)

R. The Lord takes delight in his people.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. ***R.***

3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory. ***R.***

5 Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats.
9 This is glory for all his faithful ones. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.26b, 27a

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witness.

GOSPEL

John 15.26 - 16.4a

The Spirit of truth who comes from the Father will testify on my behalf.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
he said to the disciples:
26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father,
he will testify on my behalf.
27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

1 "I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling.
2 They will put you out of the synagogues.
Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you
will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God.
3 And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me.
4 But I have said these things to you
so that when their hour comes
you may remember that I told you about them."

The gospel of the Lord.

292 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 16.22-34

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Paul and Silas were in Philippi,
22 the crowd joined in attacking them,
and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing
and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

23 After they had given Paul and Silas a severe flogging,
they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.
24 Following these instructions,
he put them in the innermost cell
and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,
and the prisoners were listening to them.
26 Suddenly there was an earthquake,
so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken;
and immediately all the doors were opened
and everyone's chains were unfastened.

27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open,
he drew his sword and was about to kill himself,
since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.
28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice,
"Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

29 The jailer called for lights,
and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
30 Then he brought them outside and said,
"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"
31 They answered,
"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,
you and your household."

32 Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to him
and to all who were in his house.
33 At the same hour of the night
he took them and washed their wounds;
then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.
34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them;
and he and his entire household rejoiced
that he had become a believer in God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 138.12a, 1-2a, 2bc-3, 7c-8 (R. see 7c)

R. Your right hand has saved me, O Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
2 I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and faithfulness. ***R.***

For you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.
3 On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul. ***R.***

7 Your right hand delivers me.
8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 16.7, 13

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord says: I will send you the Spirit of truth,
who will lead you to the whole truth.

GOSPEL

John 16.5-11

If I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
he said to the disciples:
5 "Now I am going to him who sent me;
yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'
6 But because I have said these things to you,
sorrow has filled your hearts.

7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth:
it is to your advantage that I go away,
for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you;
but if I go, I will send him to you.
8 And when he comes,
he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:
9 about sin, because they do not believe in me;
10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father
and you will see me no longer;
11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned."

The gospel of the Lord.

293 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 17.15, 22 - 18.1

What you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

15 Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens;
and after receiving instructions
to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.
22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said,
"Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
23 For as I went through the city
and looked carefully at the objects of your worship,
I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.'
What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
24 The God who made the world and everything in it,
he who is Lord of heaven and earth,
does not live in shrines made by human hands,
25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything,
since he himself gives to all mortals life
and breath and all things.

26 "From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth,
and he allotted the times of their existence
and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
27 so that they would search for God
and perhaps grope for him and find him—
though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being';
as even some of your own poets have said,
'For we too are his offspring.'

29 "Since we are God's offspring,
we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone,
an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance,
now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
31 because he has fixed a day
on which he will have the world judged in righteousness
by a man whom he has appointed,
and of this he has given assurance to all
by raising him from the dead."

➢

32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed;
but others said, “We will hear you again about this.”
33 At that point Paul left them.
34 But some of them joined him and became believers,
including Dionysius the Areopagite
and a woman named Damaris,
and others with them.
1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 148.1-2, 11-12, 13, 14 (R. see 13)

R. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host! ***R.***

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and women alike,
old and young together! ***R.***

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven. ***R.***

14 He has raised up a power for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, says the Lord,
to be with you for ever.

GOSPEL

John 16.12-15

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
he said to the disciples:
12 "I still have many things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now.
13 When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all the truth;
for he will not speak on his own,
but will speak whatever he hears,
and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
14 He will glorify me,
because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15 "All that the Father has is mine.
For this reason I said that he will take what is mine
and declare it to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

294 THURSDAY

Where the Ascension is transferred to the following Sunday, the following readings are used on Thursday.

FIRST READING

Acts 18.1-8

Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla, and they worked together; and every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.
2 There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus,
who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla,
because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.
Paul went to see them,
3 and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them,
and they worked together
—by trade they were tentmakers.
4 Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue
and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

➢

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia,
Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word,
testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus.
6 When they opposed and reviled him,
in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them,
"Your blood be on your own heads!
I am innocent.
From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

7 Then Paul left the synagogue
and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus,
a worshipper of God;
his house was next door to the synagogue.

8 Crispus, the official of the synagogue,
became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household;
and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers
and were baptized.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (R.2)

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord says: I will not leave you orphans.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

GOSPEL

John 16.16-20

You will weep and mourn, but your pain will turn into joy.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
he said to the disciples:
16 "A little while, and you will no longer see me,
and again a little while, and you will see me."

17 Then some of his disciples said to one another,
"What does he mean by saying to us,
'A little while, and you will no longer see me,
and again a little while, and you will see me';
and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"
18 They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'?
We do not know what he is talking about."

19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him,
so he said to them,
"Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said,
'A little while, and you will no longer see me,
and again a little while, and you will see me'?
20 Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn,
but the world will rejoice;
you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy."

The gospel of the Lord.

295 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 18.9-18

No one will lay a hand on you to harm you,
for there are many in this city who are my people.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

9 At Corinth one night the Lord said to Paul in a vision,
"Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent;
10 for I am with you,
and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you,
for there are many in this city who are my people."
11 He stayed there a year and six months,
teaching the word of God among them. ➢

12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia,
the Jews made a united attack on Paul
and brought him before the tribunal.
13 They said,
"This man is persuading people to worship God
in ways that are contrary to the law."
14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews
"If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy,
I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews;
15 but since it is a matter of questions
about words and names and your own law,
see to it yourselves;
I do not wish to be a judge of these matters."
16 And he dismissed them from the tribunal.

17 Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue,
and beat him in front of the tribunal.
But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.

18 After staying there for a considerable time,
Paul said farewell to the believers
and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.
At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.7)

R. God is king of all the earth.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth. ***R.***

3 He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
4 He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. ***R.***

5 God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 24.46, 26

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead,
and so enter into his glory.

GOSPEL

John 16.20-23a

***I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy from you.***

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
he said to the disciples:
20 "Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn,
but the world will rejoice;
you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.
21 When a woman is in labour, she has pain,
because her hour has come.
But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish
because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.

22 "So you have pain now;
but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy from you.
23 On that day you will ask nothing of me.
Very truly, I tell you,
if you ask anything of the Father in my name,
he will give it to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

296 SATURDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 18.23-28

Apollo spoke with burning enthusiasm,
showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

23 After spending some time at Antioch
Paul departed and went from place to place
through the region of Galatia and Phrygia,
strengthening all the disciples.

24 Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos,
a native of Alexandria.
He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures.
25 He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord;
and he spoke with burning enthusiasm
and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus,
though he knew only the baptism of John.
26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue;
but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him,
they took him aside
and explained the Way of God to him more accurately.
27 And when he wished to cross over to Achaia,
the believers encouraged him
and wrote to the disciples to welcome him.

On his arrival Paul greatly helped those who through grace
had become believers,
28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public,
showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47.1-2, 7-8, 9 (R.7)

R. God is king of all the earth.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth. ***R.***

7 For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praise with a psalm.
8 God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. ***R.***

9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 16.28

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I went from the Father and came into the world;
and now I leave the world to return to the Father.

GOSPEL

John 16.23b-28

The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believe that I come from God.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world
and go to the Father,
he said to the disciples:
23 "Very truly, I tell you,
if you ask anything of the Father in my name,
he will give it to you.
24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name.
Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

25 "I have said these things to you in figures of speech.
The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures,
but will tell you plainly of the Father.
26 On that day you will ask in my name.
I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf;
27 for the Father himself loves you,
because you have loved me
and have believed that I came from God.
28 I came from the Father and have come into the world;
again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father."

The gospel of the Lord.

SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

297 MONDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 19.1-8

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 While Apollos was in Corinth,
Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus,
where he found some disciples.
2 He said to them,
"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?"
They replied,
"No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
3 Then Paul said,
"Into what then were you baptized?"
They answered, "Into John's baptism."
4 Paul said,
"John baptized with the baptism of repentance,
telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him,
that is, in Jesus."
5 On hearing this,
they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 When Paul had laid his hands on them,
the Holy Spirit came upon them,
and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—
7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

8 Paul entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly,
and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 68.1-2, 3, 4ac, 5-6ab (R.32)

R. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God. ***R.***

3 But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy. ***R.***

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds
his name is the Lord—
be exultant before him. ***R.***

5 Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
6 God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 3.1

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

GOSPEL

John 16.29-33

Take courage; I have conquered the world!

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the disciples,
"I am leaving the world and am going to the Father."
29 His disciples said,
"Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech!
30 Now we know that you know all things,
and do not need to have anyone question you;
by this we believe that you came from God."

31 Jesus answered them,
"Do you now believe?

➢

32 The hour is coming, indeed it has come,
when you will be scattered, each one to his home,
and you will leave me alone.
Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.
33 I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace.
In the world you face persecution.
But take courage;
I have conquered the world!"

The gospel of the Lord.

298 TUESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 20.17-27

I finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul, having travelled throughout Greece,
was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.
17 From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus,
asking the elders of the church to meet him.

18 When the elders came to him, Paul said to them:
"You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time
from the first day that I set foot in Asia,
19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears,
enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews.
20 I did not shrink from doing anything helpful,
proclaiming the message to you
and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
21 as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God
and faith toward our Lord Jesus.

22 "And now, as a captive to the Spirit,
I am on my way to Jerusalem,
not knowing what will happen to me there,
23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city
that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me.
24 But I do not count my life of any value to myself,
if only I may finish my course
and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus,
to testify to the good news of God's grace.

25 “And now I know that none of you,
among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom,
will ever see my face again.
26 Therefore I declare to you this day
that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you,
27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 68.9-10, 19-20 (R.32)

R. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

9 Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
10 your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. ***R.***

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up;
God is our salvation.
20 Our God is a God of salvation,
and to God, the Lord, belongs escape from death. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, says the Lord,
to be with you for ever.

GOSPEL

John 17.1-11a

Father, glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
“Father, the hour has come;
glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,
2 since you have given him authority over all people,
to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.
3 And this is eternal life,
that they may know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

➢

4 I glorified you on earth
by finishing the work that you gave me to do.
5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory
that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 "I have made your name known
to those whom you gave me from the world.
They were yours, and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word.
7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;
8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them,
and they have received them
and know in truth that I came from you;
and they have believed that you sent me.
9 I am asking on their behalf;
I am not asking on behalf of the world,
but on behalf of those whom you gave me,
because they are yours.

10 "All mine are yours, and yours are mine;
and I have been glorified in them.
11 And now I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world,
and I am coming to you.
Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

299 WEDNESDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 20.28-38

I commend you to the message of God's grace, that is able to build you up and give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

At Ephesus, Paul sent for the elders,
and when they came to him he made his farewell:
28 "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock,
of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,
to shepherd the church of God
that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

29

I know that after I have gone,
savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
30 Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth
in order to entice the disciples to follow them.

31 “Therefore be alert,
remembering that for three years I did not cease, night or day,
to warn everyone with tears.
32 And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace,
a message that is able to build you up
and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.

33 “I coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothing.
34 You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands
to support myself and my companions.
35 In all this I have given you an example
that by such work we must support the weak,
remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said,
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

36 When he had finished speaking,
he knelt down with them all and prayed.
37 There was much weeping among them all;
they embraced Paul and kissed him,
38 grieving especially because of what he had said,
that they would not see him again.
Then they brought him to the ship.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 68.28-29, 32-33, 34, 35 (R.32)

R. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

28 Summon your might, O God;
show your strength, O God, as you have done for us before.
29 Because of your temple at Jerusalem
kings bear gifts to you. ***R.***

32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord,
33 O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ***R.***

34

Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel;
and whose power is in the skies. ***R.***

35 Awesome is God in his sanctuary,
the God of Israel;
he gives power and strength to his people.
Blessed be God! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION — John 17.17b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

GOSPEL — John 17.11b-19

Holy Father, protect them, so that they may be one, as we are one.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father,
Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
11 “Now I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world,
and I am coming to you.
Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.
12 While I was with them,
I protected them in your name that you have given me.
I guarded them,
and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,
so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 “But now I am coming to you,
and I speak these things in the world
so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.
14 I have given them your word,
and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world,
just as I do not belong to the world.

15 “I am not asking you to take them out of the world,
but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.
16 They do not belong to the world,
just as I do not belong to the world.
17 Sanctify them in the truth;
your word is truth.

18

"As you have sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.
19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself,
so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

The gospel of the Lord.

300 THURSDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 22.30; 23.6-11

Just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

A number of days after Paul had arrived in Jerusalem,
some Jews from Asia stirred up the crowd against Paul
as he was leaving the temple.
While they were trying to kill Paul,
word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.
Immediately he took some soldiers and arrested Paul.

30 Since the tribune wanted to find out what Paul was being accused of by the Jews,
he released him the next day
and ordered the chief priests and the entire council to meet.
The tribune brought Paul down and had him stand before them.
6 When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees,
he called out in the council,
"Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees.
I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead."

7 When he said this,
a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees,
and the assembly was divided.
8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit;
but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.)
9 Then a great clamour arose,
and certain scribes of the Pharisees' group stood up and contended,
"We find nothing wrong with this man.
What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

10

➢

When the dissension became violent,
the tribune, fearing that they would tear Paul to pieces,
ordered the soldiers to go down,
take him by force, and bring him into the barracks.

11 That night the Lord stood near him and said,
"Keep up your courage!
For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem,
so you must bear witness also in Rome."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2+5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 (R.1)

R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand,
I shall not be moved. ***R.***

9 Therefore my heart is glad,
and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
10 For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 17.21

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

May all be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you;
let the world believe that you sent me, says the Lord.

GOSPEL

John 17.20-26

May they become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father,
Jesus looked up to heaven and said,

20 "I ask not only on behalf of these,
but also on behalf of those
who will believe in me through their word,
21 that they may all be one.
As you, Father, are in me and I am in you,
may they also be in us,
so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
22 The glory that you have given me I have given them,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
23 I in them and you in me,
that they may become completely one,
so that the world may know that you have sent me
and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 "Father,
I desire that those also, whom you have given me,
may be with me where I am,
to see my glory, which you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 "Righteous Father,
the world does not know you, but I know you;
and these know that you have sent me.
26 I made your name known to them,
and I will make it known,
so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them,
and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

301 FRIDAY

FIRST READING

Acts 24.27; 25.13b-21++

The chief priests and elders had certain points of disagreement with Paul about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The tribune who had arrested Paul sent him to Caesarea
to be tried by Felix the governor.
27 After two years had passed,
Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus;
and since he wanted to grant the Jews a favour,
Felix left Paul in prison.
13 King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus.
14 Since they were staying there several days,
Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying,
"There is a man here who was left in prison by Felix.
15 When I was in Jerusalem,
the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me about him
and asked for a sentence against him.
16 I told them that it was not the custom of the Romans
to hand over anyone
before the accused had met the accusers face to face
and had been given an opportunity to make a defense against the charge.
17 So when they met here, I lost no time,
but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal
and ordered the man to be brought.
18 When the accusers stood up,
they did not charge him with any of the crimes that I was expecting.
19 Instead they had certain points of disagreement with him
about their own religion
and about a certain Jesus, who had died,
but whom Paul asserted to be alive.

20 "Since I was at a loss how to investigate these questions,
I asked whether he wished to go to Jerusalem
and be tried there on these charges.
21 But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody
for the decision of his Imperial Majesty,
I ordered him to be held until I could send him to the emperor."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab (R.19)

R. The Lord has set his throne in heaven.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love
toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us. ***R.***

19 The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
20 Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.26

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things
and remind you of all I have said to you.

GOSPEL

John 21.15-19

Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus showed himself to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius,
15 and when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
"Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"
Peter said to Jesus,
"Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him,
"Feed my lambs."

16 A second time Jesus said to him,
"Simon son of John, do you love me?"
Peter said to him,
"Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."
Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ➢

17 Jesus said to him the third time,
“Simon son of John, do you love me?”
Peter felt hurt because Jesus said to him the third time,
“Do you love me?”
And Peter said to him,
“Lord, you know everything;
you know that I love you.”
Jesus said to him,
“Feed my sheep.

18 “Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger,
you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished.
But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands,
and someone else will fasten a belt around you
and take you where you do not wish to go.”
19 (Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death
by which Peter would glorify God.)
After this Jesus said to him,
“Follow me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

302 SATURDAY **In the Morning**

FIRST READING

Acts 28.16-20, 30-31

Paul lived in Rome, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Since Paul had appealed to the emperor,
Festus sent Paul to Rome.
16 When he came into Rome,
Paul was allowed to live by himself,
with the soldier who was guarding him.
17 Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews.
When they had assembled, he said to them,
“Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people
or the customs of our ancestors,
yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.
18 When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me,
because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.

19 But when the Jews objected,
I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—
even though I had no charge to bring against my nation.
20 For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you,
since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel
that I am bound with this chain."

30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense
and welcomed all who came to him,
31 proclaiming the kingdom of God
and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ
with all boldness and without hindrance.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 11.4, 5, 7 (R.7)

R. The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

4 The Lord is in his holy temple;
the Lord's throne is in heaven.
His eyes behold,
his gaze examines human beings. ***R.***

5 The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked,
and his soul hates the lover of violence.
7 For the Lord is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 16.7, 13

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord says: I will send you the Spirit of truth,
who will lead you to the whole truth.

GOSPEL

John 21.20-25

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After he was raised from the dead,
Jesus appeared to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius
and indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.
20 Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them;
he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper
and had said, “Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?”
21 When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus,
“Lord, what about him?”
22 Jesus said to Peter,
“If it is my will that he remain until I come,
what is that to you?
Follow me!”

23 So the rumour spread in the community
that this disciple would not die.
Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die,
but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come,
what is that to you?”

24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things
and has written them,
and we know that his testimony is true.
25 But there are also many other things that Jesus did;
if every one of them were written down,
I suppose that the world itself
could not contain the books that would be written.

The gospel of the Lord.

303 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – EASTER SEASON

For the weekdays of the Season of Easter up to the Ascension

These texts may be used in place of the texts proposed for each day.

Matthew 4.4b
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

See Luke 24.46, 26
Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead,
and so enter into his glory.

John 3.15
The Son of Man must be lifted up,
so that all who believe in him
may have eternal life.

John 3.16
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

John 6.35ab
I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

See John 6.40
All who believe in the Son have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day, says the Lord.

John 6.51
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

John 6.56
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me, and I in them, says the Lord.

See John 6.63c, 68c
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

John 8.12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 8.31b-32
If you stay in my word, you will indeed be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

John 10.14
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

John 10.27
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

John 14.6
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

John 15.4a, 5b
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

John 15.15b
I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

John 20.29
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Romans 6.9
Christ now raised from the dead will never die again;
death no longer has power over him.

Colossians 3.1
If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

See Revelation 1.5ab
Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead;
you have loved us and washed away our sins in your blood.

We know that Christ is truly risen from the dead;
victorious king, deal kindly with us.

Nailed to the cross for our sake,
the Lord is now risen from the grave.

Christ is risen and shines upon us,
whom he has redeemed by his blood.

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;
he has shown pity on all people.

304 GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS – AFTER THE ASCENSION

For the weekdays of the Season of Easter after the Ascension

These texts may be used in place of the texts proposed for each day.

Matthew 28.19a, 20b
Go and teach all people my gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

John 14.16
The Father will send you the Holy Spirit, says the Lord,
to be with you for ever.

See John 14.18
The Lord says: I will not leave you orphans.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

John 14.26
The Holy Spirit will teach you all things
and remind you of all I have said to you.

John 15.26b, 27a
The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.

See John 16.7, 13
The Lord says: I will send you the Spirit of truth,
who will lead you to the whole truth.

John 16.28
I went from the Father and came into the world;
and now I leave the world to return to the Father.

See John 17.17b, a
Your word, O Lord, is truth;
make us holy in the truth.

John 17.21
May all be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you;
let the world believe that you sent me, says the Lord.

Colossians 3.1
If then you have been raised with Christ,
seek the things that are above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

PROPER OF SAINTS

NOVEMBER 30 TO JUNE 15

PROPER OF SAINTS

1. The rank of the celebrations of saint is indicated for each day (solemnity, feast, memorial or optional memorial).
2. For solemnities the proper texts are provided in full, and are found in the Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities.
3. For feasts the proper texts are provided in full.
4. For memorials, a proper text for the celebration is given in place and a reference for other texts is provided from the Commons.
    a) References to the Commons are provided as a suggestion only. Other texts from the Commons may be chosen, especially if they seem more appropriate to the particular celebration. In some cases, texts may be taken from more than one of the Commons. The scripture readings should be chosen which express a special character of the saint.
    b) The National Liturgical Office recommends that in normal circumstances, the readings from the ferial should be used so that the (continuous) sequence of readings may not be unduly interrupted, (especially during Ordinary Time.)
    c) Memorials during Lent are celebrated as optional memorials and the readings from the ferial are always used.
5. For optional memorials, except where special devotion exists, the ferial readings are to be preferred.
6. During the Season of Lent and the Season of Advent from December 17 to 24, memorials of saints can only be celebrated as optional memorials. Preference should be given to the ferial readings.
7. During the Easter Season, when readings are taken from the Commons, the first reading is chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation as given in the section for the Easter Season.

NOVEMBER

684 ANDREW — NOVEMBER 30

apostle — *Feast*

FIRST READING — Romans 10.9-18

Faith comes from what is heard; what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

9 If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.
10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.
11 The scripture says,
"No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all
and is generous to all who call on him.
13 For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?
As it is written,
"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

16 But not all have obeyed the good news;
for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"
17 So faith comes from what is heard,
and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

18 But I ask, have they not heard?
Indeed they have;
for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.1-2, 3-4ab (R.4a)

R. Their message goes out through all the earth.

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge. ***R.***

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 4.19

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4.18-22

Peter, Andrew, James and John followed Jesus at once, leaving all else behind.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

18 As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother,
casting a net into the sea
—for they were fishermen.

19 And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."
20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

21 As Jesus went from there, he saw two other brothers,
James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
in the boat with their father Zebedee,
mending their nets, and he called them.
22 Immediately they left the boat and their father,
and followed Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

DECEMBER

685 FRANCIS XAVIER — DECEMBER 3

priest, religious, missionary — *Memorial*

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries).
First reading: 722(4); responsorial psalm: 721(8); gospel: 724(6).

686 JOHN OF DAMASCUS — DECEMBER 4

priest, religious, doctor of the Church — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-730, especially no. 722(11).
First reading: 722(11); responsorial psalm: 727(1); gospel: 742(12).

687 NICHOLAS — DECEMBER 6

bishop — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.
First reading and responsorial psalm: 719(4); gospel: 724(8).

688 AMBROSE — DECEMBER 7

bishop, doctor of the Church — *Memorial*

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-730.
First reading: 728(4); responsorial psalm: 721(4); gospel: 724(10).

689 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

DECEMBER 8

Solemnity

These readings are also contained in the Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities.

FIRST READING

Genesis 3.9-15, 20

I will put enmity between your offspring and hers.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When the man had eaten from the tree,
9 the Lord God called to him, and said, "Where are you?"
10 The man said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden,
and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 God said, "Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree
of which I commanded you not to eat?"
12 The man said,
"The woman whom you gave to be with me,
she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."
13 Then the Lord God said to the woman,
"What is this that you have done?"
The woman said,
"The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
15 I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

20 The man named his wife "Eve,"
because she was the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (R.2b)

R. Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous deeds.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1.3-6, 11-12

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.

5 He destined us for adoption as his children
through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 to the praise of his glorious grace
that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of him
who accomplishes all things
according to his counsel and will,
12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,
might live for the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1.28, 42

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Hail, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.

GOSPEL

Luke 1.26-38

Rejoice, favoured one, the Lord is with you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

26 The angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And he came to her and said,
"Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.
31 And now, you will conceive and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him
the throne of his ancestor David.
33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.
36 And now, your relative Elizabeth
in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

690 DAMASUS I

DECEMBER 11

pope

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for a pope).
First reading and responsorial psalm: 720(2); gospel: 724(11).

691 JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

DECEMBER 12

married woman, religious foundress

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (for religious).
First reading and responsorial psalm: 737(11); gospel: 742(14).

691A OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

DECEMBER 12

patroness of the Americas

Optional Memorial

See Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712.
First reading and responsorial psalm: 707(11) or 708(2); gospel: 712(4).

692 LUCY

DECEMBER 13

virgin, martyr

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Virgins, nos. 713-718 or 731-736.
First reading: 734(2); responsorial psalm: 715(1); gospel: 736(2).

693 JOHN OF THE CROSS

DECEMBER 14

priest, religious, doctor of the Church

Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-724 or 725-730.
First reading: 728(2); responsorial psalm: 727(2); gospel: 742(23).

694 PETER CANISIUS

DECEMBER 21

priest, religious, doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-724 or 725-730.
First reading: 722(12); responsorial psalm: 721(3); gospel: 730(1).

695 JOHN OF KANTY

DECEMBER 23

priest

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Holy Men and Women, nos. 719-724 (for those who work for the disadvantaged) or 737-742.
First reading: 740(13); responsorial psalm: 739(7); gospel: 742(18).

696 STEPHEN

DECEMBER 26

the first martyr

Feast

FIRST READING

Acts 6.8-10; 7.54-59

I see the heavens opened!

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

8 Stephen, full of grace and power,
did great wonders and signs among the people.
9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen
(as it was called),
Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia,
stood up and argued with Stephen.
10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit
with which Stephen spoke.

54 When his enemies heard what Stephen proclaimed,
they became enraged and ground their teeth at him.
55 But filled with the Holy Spirit,
he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
56 "Look," he said,
"I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
57 But his enemies covered their ears,
and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him;
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.
59 While he was being stoned, Stephen prayed,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 118.26a, 27a

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:
the Lord shines upon us.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10.17-22

No, you will not be the one speaking:
the Spirit of your Father will speak through you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve:
17 "Beware of those who oppose you, for they will hand you over to councils
and flog you in their synagogues;
18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me,
as a testimony to them and the Gentiles.

19 "When they hand you over,
do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say;
for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ➢

20 for it is not you who speak,
but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child,
and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;
22 and you will be hated by all because of my name.
But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

The gospel of the Lord.

697 JOHN

apostle, evangelist

DECEMBER 27

Feast

FIRST READING

1 John 1.1-4

We reveal to you what we have seen and heard.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:
1 We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life—
2 this life was revealed,
and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us—
3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have communion with us;
and truly our communion is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 97.1-2, 5-6, 11-12 (R.12a)

R. Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

1 The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. ***R.***

5 The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
before the Lord of all the earth.
6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory. ***R.***

11 Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name! ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
the glorious company of apostles praise you.

GOSPEL

John 20.2-8

The other disciples outdistanced Peter, and arrived first at the tomb of Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

2 On the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple,
the one whom Jesus loved,
and said to them,
"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him."

3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.
4 The two were running together,
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there,
but he did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb.
He saw the linen wrappings lying there,
7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head;
it was not lying with the linen wrappings
but rolled up in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in,
and he saw and believed.

The gospel of the Lord.

698 HOLY INNOCENTS

martyrs

DECEMBER 28

Feast

FIRST READING

1 John 1.5 - 2.2

Christ's blood cleanses us from all sin.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:
5 This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ
and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have communion with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have communion with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned,
we make him a liar,
and his word is not in us.

1 My little children,
I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only
but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7ab)

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

2 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us. ***R.***

4 Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ***R.***

7 The snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2.13-18

Herod killed all the little boys in and around Bethlehem.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

13 After the wise men had left,
an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Get up, take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you;
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

14 Then Joseph got up,
took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
15 and remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,
"Out of Egypt I have called my son."

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,
he was infuriated,
and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem
who were two years old or under,
according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ➢

17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The gospel of the Lord.

699 THOMAS BECKET

DECEMBER 29

bishop, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724.
First reading: 716(5); responsorial psalm: 715(2); gospel: 742(6).

700 SYLVESTER I

DECEMBER 31

pope

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for a pope).
First reading and responsorial psalm: 719(9); gospel: 724(2).

JANUARY

18 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1

Octave of Christmas

Solemnity

See Lectionary for Sundays and Solemnities (no. 18) page 82.

510 BASIL THE GREAT and GREGORY NAZIANZEN

JANUARY 2

bishops, doctors of the Church

Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-724 or 725-730.
First reading: 722(8); responsorial psalm: 721(2); gospel: 724(3).

510A ELIZABETH ANN SETON

JANUARY 4

religious foundress

Optional Memorial

An alternative reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58.6-11

Let the hungry share your bread.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord God says this:

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ➢

10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

The word of the Lord.

or:

1 Corinthians 12.31 - 13.13

Love will never end.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

31 Strive for the greater gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
2 And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
3 If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
5 It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.
7 It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends.
But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;
as for tongues, they will cease;
as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;
10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child,
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;
when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part;
then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.
13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 131.1, 2, 3

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me. ***R.***

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child
that is with me. ***R.***

3 O Israel, hope in the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13.34

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5.13-16

You are the light of the world.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,
13 "You are the salt of the earth;
but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything,
but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ➢

14 “You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.
16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

510B BLESSED ANDRÉ BESSETTE

JANUARY 6

religious

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742.
First reading: 740(15); responsorial psalm: 739(6); gospel: 742(4).

511 RAYMOND OF PENYAFORT

JANUARY 7

priest, religious

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.
First reading: 722(7); responsorial psalm: 739(6); gospel: 742(22).

511A MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS

JANUARY 12

religious foundress

Memorial

An alternate reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Sirach 2.1-11

When you serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 My child,
when you come to serve the Lord,
prepare yourself for trials.
2 Set your heart right and be steadfast,
and do not be impetuous in time of calamity.
3 Cling to God and do not depart,
so that your last days may be prosperous.

4 Accept whatever befalls you,
and in times of humiliation be patient.
5 For gold is tested in the fire,
and those found acceptable,
in the furnace of humiliation.
6 Trust in him, and he will help you;
make your ways straight, and hope in him.

7 You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;
do not stray, or else you may fall.
8 You who fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
9 You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

10 Consider the generations of old and see:
has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?
Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken?
Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?

11 For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;
he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

1 Thessalonians 2.2b-8

We give you the good news, and our lives as well.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters,
2 we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God
in spite of great opposition.
3 For our appeal does not spring from deceit
or impure motives or trickery,
4 but just as we have been approved by God
to be entrusted with the message of the gospel,
even so we speak,
not to please mortals,
but to please God who tests our hearts.

5 As you know and as God is our witness,
we never came with words of flattery
or with a pretext for greed; ➢

6 nor did we seek praise from mortals,
whether from you or from others,
7 though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.
But we were gentle among you,
like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.

8 So deeply do we care for you
that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God
but also our own selves,
because you have become very dear to us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 3-4, 5a+9 (R.1)

R. Happy are those who delight in the Lord's commands.

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend.
9 They have distributed freely,
they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their power is exalted in honour. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

You did not choose me, but I chose you;
and I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last.

GOSPEL

John 15.9-17

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
9 "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments,
you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and abide in his love.

11 "I have said these things to you
so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.
12 This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 "You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15 I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
because I have made known to you everything
that I have heard from my Father.

16 "You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

512 HILARY — JANUARY 13

bishop, doctor of the Church — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-724 or 725-730.

FIRST READING — 1 John 2.18-25

All who confess the Son, have the Father also.

A reading from the first letter of John.

18 Children,
it is the last hour!
As you have heard that antichrist is coming,
so now many antichrists have come.
From this we know that it is the last hour. ➢

19 They went out from us,
but they did not belong to us;
for if they had belonged to us,
they would have remained with us.
But by going out
they made it plain that none of them belongs to us.

20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One,
and all of you have knowledge.
21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth,
but because you know it,
and you know that no lie comes from the truth.

22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?
This is the antichrist,
the one who denies the Father and the Son.
23 No one who denies the Son has the Father;
everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.
If what you heard from the beginning abides in you,
then you will abide in the Son and in the Father.
25 And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial psalm: 721(7); gospel: 730(1).

513 ANTHONY — JANUARY 17

abbot — *Memorial*

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 740(8); responsorial psalm: 739(3).

GOSPEL — Matthew 19.16-26

If you wish to be perfect, sell what you have, and you will have treasure in heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

16 Someone came to Jesus and said,
“Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”
17 And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good?
There is only one who is good.
If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

18 He said to him, “Which ones?”
And Jesus said, “You shall not murder;
You shall not commit adultery;
You shall not steal;
You shall not bear false witness;
19 Honour your father and mother;
also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

20 The young man said to him, “I have kept all these;
what do I still lack?”
21 Jesus said to him,
“If you wish to be perfect,
go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me.”

22 When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving,
for he had many possessions.

23 Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you,
it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.
24 Again I tell you,
it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”
25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded
and said, “Then who can be saved?”
26 But Jesus looked at them and said,
“For mortals it is impossible,
but for God all things are possible.”

The gospel of the Lord.

514 FABIAN

JANUARY 20

pope, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-718 or 719-724 (for a pope).
First reading: 722(13); responsorial psalm: 721(3); gospel: 724(12).

515 SEBASTIAN

martyr

JANUARY 20

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.

First reading: 716(8); responsorial psalm: 715(2); gospel: 718(2).

516 AGNES

virgin, martyr

JANUARY 21

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Virgins, nos. 713-718 or 731-736.

First reading: 740(2); responsorial psalm: 739(4); gospel: 742(5).

517 VINCENT

deacon, martyr

JANUARY 22

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.

First reading: 716(3); responsorial psalm: 715(2); gospel: 718(1).

518 FRANCIS DE SALES

bishop, religious founder, doctor of the Church

JANUARY 24

Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-724 or 725-730.

First reading: 728(4); responsorial psalm: 727(2); gospel: 724(11).

519 CONVERSION OF PAUL

apostle

JANUARY 25

Feast

An alternative reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Acts 22.3-16

Get up, be baptized, be freed of your sins by calling on the Lord's name.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul spoke to the people in Jerusalem:
3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia,
but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel,
educated strictly according to our ancestral law,
being zealous for God, just as all of you are today.

4 “I persecuted this Way up to the point of death
by binding both men and women and putting them in prison,
5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me.
From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus,
and I went there in order to bind those who were there
and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

6 “While I was on my way and approaching Damascus,
about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me.
7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me,
‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’
8 I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’
Then he said to me,
‘I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.’
9 Now those who were with me saw the light
but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.
10 I asked, ‘What am I to do, Lord?’
The Lord said to me,
‘Get up and go to Damascus;
there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.’
11 Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light,
those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.

12 “A certain Ananias,
who was a devout man according to the law
13 and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, came to me;
and standing beside me, he said,
‘Brother Saul, regain your sight!’
In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him.
14 Then Ananias said,
‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will,
to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice;
15 for you will be his witness to all the world
of what you have seen and heard.
16 And now why do you delay?
Get up, be baptized,
and have your sins washed away, calling on his name.’”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Acts 9.1-22
Lord, what am I to do?

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1 Saul, still breathing threats and murder
against the disciples of the Lord,
went to the high priest
2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus,
so that if he found any who belonged to the Way,
men or women,
he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 Now as Saul was going along and approaching Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,
"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"
5 Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"
The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

7 The men who were travelling with Saul stood speechless
because they heard the voice but saw no one.
8 Saul got up from the ground,
and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing;
so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias.
The Lord said to him in a vision,
"Ananias."
He answered, "Here I am, Lord."
11 The Lord said to him,
"Get up and go to the street called Straight,
and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul.
At this moment he is praying,
12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in
and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

13 But Ananias answered,
"Lord, I have heard from many about this man,
how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;
14 and here he has authority from the chief priests
to bind all who invoke your name."
15 But the Lord said to Ananias,
"Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen
to bring my name before Gentiles and kings
and before the people of Israel;

16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17 So Ananias went and entered the house.
He laid his hands on Saul and said,
"Brother Saul,
the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here,
has sent me so that you may regain your sight
and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 And immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes,
and his sight was restored.
Then he got up and was baptized,
19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days Saul was with the disciples in Damascus,
20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying
"Jesus is the Son of God."

21 All who heard Saul were amazed and said,
"Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem
among those who invoked this name?
And has he not come here
for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"
22 Saul became increasingly more powerful
and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus
by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples! ***R.***

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 15.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord,
to go and bear fruit that will last.

GOSPEL

Mark 16.15-18

Go forth into the whole world. Preach the good news.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

15 Jesus said to the Eleven,
"Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.
16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

17 "And these signs will accompany those who believe:
by using my name they will cast out demons;
they will speak in new tongues;
18 they will pick up snakes in their hands,
and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them;
they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The gospel of the Lord.

In votive Masses of St. Paul the readings are as above.

520 TIMOTHY and TITUS

JANUARY 26

bishops

Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 721-724.
An alternative reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

2 Timothy 1.1-8

I am reminded of your sincere faith.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

1 From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
2 To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I am grateful to God—
whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—
when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

4 Recalling your tears,
I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy.
5 I am reminded of your sincere faith,
a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois
and your mother Eunice
and now, I am sure, lives in you.
6 For this reason
I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you
through the laying on of my hands;
7 for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice,
but rather a spirit of power of love and of self-discipline.

8 Do not be ashamed, then,
of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner,
but join with me in suffering for the gospel,
relying on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Titus 1.1-5

To Titus, my loyal son in a faith we share.

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

1 From Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,
for the sake of the faith of God's elect
and the knowledge of the truth that is in accordance with godliness,
2 in the hope of eternal life that God, who never lies,
promised before the ages began—
3 in due time he revealed his word
through the proclamation with which I have been entrusted
by the command of God our Saviour,

4 To Titus, my loyal child in the faith we share:
Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.
5 I left you behind in Crete for this reason,
so that you should put in order what remained to be done,
and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 (R.3)

R. Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name. ***R.***

Tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
tell of his marvellous works among all the peoples. ***R.***

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. ***R.***

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity." ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Gospel: no. 724(8).

521 ANGELA MERICI

JANUARY 27

religious foundress, educator

Optional Memorial

See Common of Virgins or Holy Men and Women, nos. 731-736 or 737-742 (for teachers).
First reading: 740(15); responsorial psalm: 733(2); gospel: 742(15).

522 THOMAS AQUINAS

JANUARY 28

priest, religious, doctor of the Church

Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-724 or 725-730.
First reading: no 725(2); responsorial psalm: 727(3); gospel: 730(4).

523 JOHN BOSCO

JANUARY 31

priest, religious founder, educator

Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Holy Men and Women, nos. 719-724 or 737-742 (for teachers).
First reading: 740(10); responsorial psalm: 739(6); gospel: 742(7).

FEBRUARY

524 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2
Feast

FIRST READING

Malachi 3.1-4

The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God:
1 "See, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me,
and the Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—
indeed, he is coming,"
says the Lord of hosts.

2 "But who can endure the day of his coming,
and who can stand when he appears?
For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;
3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,
and he will purify the descendants of Levi
and refine them like gold and silver,
until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.
4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem
will be pleasing to the Lord
as in the days of old and as in former years."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 24.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.10)

R. The Lord of hosts: he is king of glory!

7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. ***R.***

8 Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle. ***R.***

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in. ***R.***

10 Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory. ***R.***

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.10-11, 13b-18++

Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

10 It was fitting that God,
for whom and through whom all things exist,
in bringing many children to glory,
should make the source of their salvation
perfect through sufferings.
11 For the one who sanctifies
and those who are sanctified all have one Father.

For this reason
Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
13 "Here am I,
and the children whom God has given me."
14 Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus himself likewise shared the same things,
so that through death
he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil,
15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery
by the fear of death.

16 For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels,
but the descendants of Abraham.
17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters
in every respect,
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
in the service of God,
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 2.32

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

This is a light of revelation to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation.

The shorter version (22-32) ends at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

22 When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord.
23 As it is written in the law of the Lord,
"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord,"
24 and they offered a sacrifice
according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death
before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,
28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel." *

33 The child's father and mother were amazed
at what was being said about him.

➢

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined
for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 There was also a prophet, Anna,
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple
but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God
and to speak about the child
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When the parents of Jesus had finished everything
required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favour of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

525 BLASE

FEBRUARY 3

bishop, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-718 or 719-724.
First reading: 716(1); responsorial psalm: 721(8); gospel: 724(6).

526 ANSGAR

FEBRUARY 3

bishop, missionary

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries).
First reading:719(5); responsorial psalm: 721(5); gospel: 724(5).

527 AGATHA

FEBRUARY 5

virgin, martyr

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Virgins, nos. 713-718 or 731-736.
First reading: 740(2); responsorial psalm: 715(1); gospel: 718(4).

528 PAUL MIKI and Companions

FEBRUARY 6

religious, missionary, martyr, and martyrs

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 740(5); responsorial psalm: 715(4); gospel: 724(4).

Lenten Season

During the Season of Lent, memorials of saints can only be celebrated as optional memorials. Preference should be given to the ferial readings.

In Lent, the “Alleluia” is not sung; any of the following acclamations may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation. See no. 223, page 383 for other acclamations.

Praise to you Lord, king of eternal glory.++

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Glory to you, word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

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529 JEROME EMILIANI

FEBRUARY 8

religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (for teachers).
First reading: 737(8); responsorial psalm: 739(5); gospel: 742(17).

530 SCHOLASTICA

FEBRUARY 10

religious

Memorial

See Common of Virgins or Holy Men and Women, nos. 731-742 (for religious).
First reading: 731(1); responsorial psalm: 733(2); gospel: 736(3).

531 OUR LADY OF LOURDES

FEBRUARY 11
Optional Memorial

See Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 66.10, 12-14c

I will give her prosperity, like a river in full flow.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

10 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her.
12 For thus says the Lord:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.

13 As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

14 You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the Lord is with his servants.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Judith 13.18abc, 19-20ab (R.15.9d)

R. You are the highest honour of our race.

18 O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God
above all other women on earth;
and blessed be the Lord God,
who created the heavens and the earth. ***R.***

19 Your praise will never depart
from the hearts of those who remember the power of God.
20 May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you,
and may he reward you with blessings. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 1.45

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled.

GOSPEL

John 2.1-11

The mother of Jesus was at Cana with him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
"They have no wine."
4 And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants,
"Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now standing there were six stone water jars
for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding about one hundred litres.
7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water."
And they filled them up to the brim.
8 He said to them, "Now draw some out,
and take it to the chief steward."
So they took it.

9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
10 "Everyone serves the good wine first,
and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.
But you have kept the good wine until now."
11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,
and revealed his glory;
and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

532 CYRIL and METHODIUS

FEBRUARY 14

religious, missionary, and bishop, missionary

Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries) or 737-742.
First reading: 720(1); responsorial psalm: 721(8); gospel: 724(8).

533 SEVEN FOUNDERS of the Order of Servites

FEBRUARY 17

religious founders

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 740(1); responsorial psalm: 739(5); gospel: 742(9).

533A BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS

FEBRUARY 18

virgin, religious

Optional Memorial

See Common of Virgins, nos. 731-736.
First reading: 740(2); responsorial psalm: 739(9).

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 36.9

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

You, O Lord, are the source of life:
in your light, we see light.

GOSPEL

John 12.24-26

If a grain of wheat falls into the ground and gives its life, it brings forth a harvest.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
24 "Very truly, I tell you,
unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

25 "Those who love their life lose it,
and those who hate their life in this world
will keep it for eternal life.

26 "Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honour."

The gospel of the Lord.

534 PETER DAMIAN

FEBRUARY 21

bishop, religious, doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, Doctors or Holy Men and Women, nos. 725-730, 719-724 or 737-742 (for religious).

First reading: 728(7); responsorial psalm: 721(1); gospel: 742(24).

535 CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

FEBRUARY 22

apostle

Feast

FIRST READING

1 Peter 5.1-4

I am an elder, a witness to Christ's sufferings.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

1 Now as an elder myself
and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,
as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed,
I exhort the elders among you
2 to tend the flock of God that is in your charge,
exercising the overseeing,
not under compulsion but willingly,
as God would have you do it—
not for sordid gain, but eagerly.
3 Do not lord it over those in your charge,
but be examples to the flock.
4 And when the chief shepherd appears,
you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 16.18

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16.13-19

You are Peter; I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

13 When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

14 And the disciples said,
"Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah,
and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 Jesus said to them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
17 And Jesus answered him,
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven.
18 And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

In votive Masses of St. Peter the readings are as above.

536 POLYCARP

FEBRUARY 23

bishop, martyr

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724.

FIRST READING

Revelation 2.8-11

I know your sufferings, I know your poverty.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, heard a voice saying:
8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:
These are the words of the first and the last,
who was dead and came to life:
9 'I know your affliction and your poverty,
even though you are rich.
I know the slander
on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not,
but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 "'Do not fear what you are about to suffer.
Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison
so that you may be tested,
and for ten days you will have affliction.
Be faithful until death,
and I will give you the crown of life.

11 "'Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.
Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

GOSPEL

John 15.18-21

If the world has persecuted me, so will it persecute you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
18 "If the world hates you,
be aware that it hated me before it hated you.
19 If you belonged to the world,
the world would love you as its own.
Because you do not belong to the world,
but I have chosen you out of the world—
therefore the world hates you.

20 "Remember the word that I said to you,
'Servants are not greater than their master.'
If they persecuted me, they will persecute you;
if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.
21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name,
because they do not know him who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

MARCH

During the Season of Lent memorials of saints can only be celebrated as optional memorials. Preference should be given to the ferial readings.

537 CASIMIR

MARCH 4

prince

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742.
First reading: 740(9); responsorial psalm: 739(2); gospel: 742(25).

538 PERPETUA and FELICITY

MARCH 7

martyrs

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 716(2); responsorial psalm: 715(3); gospel: 718(3).

539 JOHN OF GOD

MARCH 8

religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742.
First reading: 740(16); responsorial psalm: 739(7); gospel: 742(13).

540 FRANCES OF ROME

MARCH 9

married woman, religious foundress

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742.
First reading: 737(11); responsorial psalm: 739(5); gospel: 742(10).

541 PATRICK

MARCH 17

bishop, missionary

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries).
First reading: 740(15); responsorial psalm: 721(5); gospel: 724(7).

542 CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

MARCH 18

bishop, doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-730.
First reading: 740(18); responsorial psalm: 727(1); gospel: 742(24).

543 JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

MARCH 19

Patron of Canada

Solemnity

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.4-5a, 12-14a, 16

The Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

4 The word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5 "Go and tell my servant David:
12 'When your days are fulfilled
and you lie down with your ancestors,
I will raise up your offspring after you,
who shall come forth from your body,
and I will establish his kingdom.

13 "'He shall build a house for my name,
and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
14 I will be a father to him,
and he shall be a son to me.
16 Your house and your kingdom
shall be made sure forever before me.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 26+28, (R.36)

R. The son of David will live for ever.

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
4 I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations." ***R.***

26 He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"
28 Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him,
and my covenant with him will stand firm. ***R.***

SECOND READING

Romans 4.13, 16-18, 22

Hoping against hope, Abraham believed.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

13 The promise that Abraham would inherit the world
did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law
but through the righteousness of faith.

16 For this reason the promise depends on faith,
in order that the promise may rest on grace
and be guaranteed to all his descendants,
not only to the adherents of the law,
but also to those who share the faith of Abraham.

He is the father of all of us,
17 as it is written,
"I have made you the father of many nations."
Abraham believed in the presence of the God
who gives life to the dead
and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

18 Hoping against hope,
Abraham believed that he would become
"the father of many nations,"
according to what was said,
"So numerous shall your descendants be."

22 Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 84.4

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord;
they sing your praise without end!

GOSPEL

Matthew 1.16, 18-21, 24a

Joseph awoke and did what the angel had commanded.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

16 Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary,
of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man
and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 But just when he had resolved to do this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
21 She will bear a son,
and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins."

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep,
he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;
he took Mary as his wife.

The gospel of the Lord.

or:

GOSPEL

Luke 2.41-51a

Your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

41 Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem
for the festival of the Passover.
42 And when Jesus was twelve years old,
they went up as usual for the festival.

43 When the festival was ended and they started to return,
the boy stayed behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.
44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers,
they went a day's journey.

Then they started to look for him
among their relatives and friends.
45 When they did not find him,
they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

46 After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard him were amazed
at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him they were astonished;
and his mother said to him,
"Child, why have you treated us like this?
Look, your father and I have been searching for you
in great anxiety."
49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
50 But they did not understand what he said to them.

51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to them.

The gospel of the Lord.

544 TURIBIUS DE MONGROVEJO

MARCH 23

bishop

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.
First reading: 722(11); responsorial psalm: 721(5); gospel: 724(1).

545 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

MARCH 25
Solemnity

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d
The young woman is with child.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

10 The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying,
11 "Ask a sign of the Lord your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."
12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask,
and I will not put the Lord to the test."
13 Then Isaiah said:
"Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary mortals,
that you weary my God also?
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel,"
10 for God is with us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.6, 7-8, 9, 10 (R.7-8)

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required. ***R.***

7 Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation. ***R.***

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10.4-10

It was written of me in the scroll of the book: See, God, I have come to do your will.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
7 Then I said,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book,
'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God.'"

8 When he said,
"You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings
and burnt offerings and sin offerings"
(these are offered according to the law,)
9 then he added,
"See, I have come to do your will."
He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

10 And it is by God's will
that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 1.14ab

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us;
and we saw his glory.

GOSPEL

Luke 1.26-38

Mary, you will conceive and bear a son.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

26 The angel Gabriel was sent by God
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And he came to her and said,
"Greetings, favoured one!
The Lord is with you."
29 But she was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.
31 And now, you will conceive and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
32 He will be great,
and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him
the throne of his ancestor David.
33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am a virgin?"
35 The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born of you will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.
36 And now, your relative Elizabeth
in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
37 For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

APRIL

546 FRANCIS OF PAOLA — APRIL 2

hermit, religious founder — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 740(9); responsorial psalm: 739(3); gospel: 742(21).

547 ISIDORE — APRIL 4

bishop, doctor of the Church — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-730.
First reading: 722(6); responsorial psalm: 727(2); gospel: 730(6).

548 VINCENT FERRER — APRIL 5

priest, religious, missionary — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries).
First reading: 722(12); responsorial psalm: 721(3); gospel: 742(22).

549 JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE — APRIL 7

priest, religious founder, educator — *Memorial*

See Common of Pastors or Holy Men and Women, nos. 719-724 or 737-742 (for teachers).
First reading: 722(11); responsorial psalm: 739(1); gospel: 742(7).

550 STANISLAUS — APRIL 11

bishop, martyr — *Memorial*

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724.
First reading: 714(3) responsorial psalm: 715(2); gospel: 718(7).

551 MARTIN I — APRIL 13

pope, martyr — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724 (for a pope).
First reading: 716(5); responsorial psalm: 715(4); gospel: 718(6).

551A BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA

APRIL 17

virgin

Optional Memorial

See Common of Virgins or Holy Men and Women, nos. 731-736; (Easter season, see no. 732).

FIRST READING

Wisdom 9.13-18

Who can discern what the Lord wills?

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

13 Who can learn the counsel of God?
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?
14 For the reasoning of mortals is worthless,
and our designs are likely to fail;
15 for a perishable body weighs down the soul,
and this earthy tent burdens the thoughtful mind.

16 We can hardly guess at what is on earth,
and what is at hand we find with labour;
but who has traced out what is in the heavens?

17 Who has learned your counsel,
unless you have given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?
18 And thus the paths of those on earth were set right,
and people were taught what pleases you,
and were saved by wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Romans 12.1-2

May you discern what is the will of God.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God—
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.57+72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (R.97)

R. Lord, how I love your law!

57 The Lord is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.
72 The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces. ***R.***

76 Let your steadfast love become my comfort
according to your promise to your servant.
77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;
for your law is my delight. ***R.***

127 Truly I love your commandments
more than gold, more than fine gold.
128 Truly I direct my steps by all your precepts;
I hate every false way. ***R.***

129 Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
130 The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Mark 3. 35

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

Whoever does the will of God, says the Lord,
is my brother, my sister and my mother.

GOSPEL

Matthew 12.46-50

Pointing out his disciples, Jesus said:
"Here is my mother! Here are my brothers and sisters!"

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

46 While Jesus was speaking to the crowds,
his mother and his brothers were standing outside,
wanting to speak to him.
47 Someone told Jesus,
"Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside,
wanting to speak to you."
48 But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied,
"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

49 And pointing to his disciples, Jesus said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers!
50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother."

The gospel of the Lord.

552 ANSELM

APRIL 21

bishop, religious, doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-30.
First reading: 740(7); responsorial psalm: 739(5); gospel: 730(2).

553 GEORGE

APRIL 23

martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading:714(4); responsorial psalm: 715(4); gospel: 718(4).

554 FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN

APRIL 24

priest, religious, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724.
First reading: 722(9); responsorial psalm: 715(2); gospel: 742(26).

555 MARK
evangelist

APRIL 25
Feast

FIRST READING

1 Peter 5.5b-14

My son in the faith, Mark, joins me in greeting you.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved,
5 all of you must clothe yourselves with humility
in your dealings with one another,
for "God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble."
6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
so that he may exalt you in due time.

7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.
8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert.
Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around,
looking for someone to devour.
9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith,
for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world
are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.

10 And after you have suffered for a little while,
the God of all grace,
who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.
11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

12 Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother,
I have written this short letter to encourage you
and to testify that this is the true grace of God.
Stand fast in it.

13 Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you,
sends you greetings;
and so does my son Mark.

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.
Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89. 1-2, 5-6, 15-16 (R.2a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

or: Alleluia (Two or three times)

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.
6 For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord? ***R.***

15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;
16 they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Corinthians 1.23a, 24b

This verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation.
If the acclamation is not sung, it is omitted.

We preach a Christ who was crucified;
he is the power and the wisdom of God.

GOSPEL

Mark 16.15-20

Proclaim the good news to all creation.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

After rising from the dead,
15 Jesus, appeared to the Eleven and said to them,
"Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.
16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

17 "And these signs will accompany those who believe:
by using my name they will cast out demons;
they will speak in new tongues;
18 they will pick up snakes in their hands,
and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them;
they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them,
was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
20 And the Eleven went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them
and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

The gospel of the Lord.

555A OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

APRIL 26
Optional Memorial

An alternative reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9.2a-4, 6-7
A son is given to us.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shone.

3 You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

The Lord will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Acts 1.12-14; 2.1-4

The apostles, together with Mary, were constantly devoting themselves to prayer.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After Jesus had been taken up into heaven,
12 the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,
which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.
13 When they had entered the city,
they went to the room upstairs where they were staying,
Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas,
Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus,
and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer,
together with certain women,
including Mary the mother of Jesus,
as well as his brothers.

1 When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place.
2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound
like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,
and a tongue rested on each of them.
4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in other languages,
as the Spirit gave them ability.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104.1a+24, 29b-30, 31+34 (R.24)

R. Lord, how great are your works!

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. ***R.***

29 When you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. ***R.***

31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works.
34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Proverbs 8.14

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

To me belong counsel and prudence;
understanding and strength are mine.

GOSPEL

John 2.1-11

The mother of Jesus was at Cana with him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
"They have no wine."
4 And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants,
"Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now standing there were six stone water jars
for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding about one hundred litres.
7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water."
And they filled them up to the brim.

➢

8 He said to them, "Now draw some out,
and take it to the chief steward."
So they took it.

9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
10 "Everyone serves the good wine first,
and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.
But you have kept the good wine until now."

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,
and revealed his glory;
and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

556 PETER CHANEL

APRIL 28

priest, religious, missionary, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724 (for missionaries).
First reading: 722(2); responsorial psalm: 721(8); gospel: 724(5).

556A LOUIS GRIGNON DE MONTFORT

APRIL 28

priest, religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724; (Easter season, see nos. 720).
First Reading: 722(1); responsorial psalm: 721(5); gospel: 724(11).

557 CATHERINE OF SIENA

APRIL 29

religious, doctor of the Church

Memorial

See Common of Doctors or Virgins, nos. 725-736.

FIRST READING

1 John 1.5 - 2.2

Christ's blood cleanses us from all sin.

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved:
5 This is the message we have heard from Jesus Christ
and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have communion with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true;
7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have communion with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say that we have not sinned,
we make him a liar,
and his word is not in us.

1 My little children,
I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.
But if anyone does sin,
we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;
2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,
and not for ours only
but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial psalm: 739(6); gospel: 742(4).

558 PIUS V — APRIL 30

pope, religious — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for a pope).
First reading: 722(3); responsorial psalm: 721(7); gospel: 724(12).

558A BLESSED MARIE OF THE INCARNATION — APRIL 30

religious — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (or religious).
First reading: 737(15) or 740(7); responsorial psalm: 739(5); gospel: 742(1).

MAY

559 JOSEPH THE WORKER

MAY 1
Optional Memorial

An alternate reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Genesis 1.26 - 2.3
Fill the earth and govern it.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After creating all other things,
26 God said, "Let us make human beings in our image,
according to our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle,
and over all the wild animals of the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created human beings in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them,
"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;
and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

29 God said,
"See, I have given you every plant yielding seed
that is upon the face of all the earth,
and every tree with seed in its fruit;
you shall have them for food.

30 "And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air,
and to everything that creeps on the earth,
everything that has the breath of life,
I have given every green plant for food."
And it was so.

31 God saw everything that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,
and all their multitude. ➢

2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done,
and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.
3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it,
because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Colossians 3.14-15, 17, 23-24

Work with full hearts, to please the Lord, and not for human reward.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.
17 Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

23 Whatever your task, put yourselves into it,
as done for the Lord and not for your masters,
24 since you know that from the Lord
you will receive the inheritance as your reward;
you serve the Lord Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 90.2, 3-4, 12-13, 14+16 (R.17c)

R. Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ***R.***

3 You turn us back to dust,
and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”
4 For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night. ***R.***

12 So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
13 Turn, O Lord! How long?
Have compassion on your servants! ***R.***

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
16 Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 68.20

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed be the Lord day after day,
the God who saves us and bears our burdens.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13.54-58

Is not this man Jesus, the carpenter's son?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

54 Jesus came to his hometown
and began to teach the people in their synagogue,
so that they were astounded and said,
"Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power?
55 Is not this the carpenter's son?
Is not his mother called Mary?
And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?
56 Are not all his sisters with us?
Where then did this man get all this?"
57 The people of his hometown took offense at Jesus.
But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour
except in their own country and in their own house."
58 Jesus did not do many deeds of power there,
because of their unbelief.

The gospel of the Lord.

560 ATHANASIUS

MAY 2

bishop, doctor of the Church

Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-730.
First reading: no. 740(18); responsorial psalm: no. 727(2).

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5.10

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice' sake;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10.22-25a

If you are persecuted in one place, flee to the next.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:
22 "You will be hated by all because of my name.
But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next;
for truly I tell you,
you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel
before the Son of Man comes.

24 "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master;
25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher,
and the slave like the master."

The gospel of the Lord.

561 PHILIP and JAMES

MAY 3

apostles

Feast

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 15.1-8

Christ appeared to James, and then to all the apostles.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 I would remind you, brothers and sisters,
of the good news that I proclaimed to you,
which you in turn received, in which also you stand,
2 through which also you are being saved,
if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—
unless you have come to believe in vain.

3 For I handed on to you as of first importance
what I in turn had received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,
4 and that he was buried,
and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,
5 and that he appeared to Cephas,
then to the twelve.

6 Then Christ appeared
to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time,
most of whom are still alive,
though some have died.
7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
8 Last of all, as to one untimely born,
Christ appeared also to me.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.1-2, 3-4ab (R.5a)

R. Their message goes out through all the earth.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
2 Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge. ***R.***

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14.6b, 9c

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
Philip, whoever sees me sees the Father.

GOSPEL

John 14.6-14

Have I been with you all this time, and you still do not know me?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

6 Jesus said to the disciples,
"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
7 If you know me, you will know my Father also.
From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to Jesus,
"Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

9 Jesus said to him,
"Have I been with you all this time, Philip,
and you still do not know me?
Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.
How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?
10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me?
The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own;
but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

11 "Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
but if you do not,
then believe me because of the works themselves.
12 Very truly, I tell you,
the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do
and, in fact, will do greater works than these,
because I am going to the Father.

13 "I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The gospel of the Lord.

For a votive Mass of St. Philip, the first reading is taken from the Mass of October 28, and the gospel from the Mass of May 3.

For a votive Mass of St. James, the first reading is taken from the Mass of May 3, and the gospel from the Mass of October 28.

561A BLESSED MARIE-LEONIE PARADIS — MAY 4

religious — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Virgins or Holy Men and Women, nos. 731-736 or 737-742 (for religious).

FIRST READING — Colossians 3.14-15, 17, 23-24

Work with full hearts, to please the Lord, and not for human reward.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.
17 Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

23 Whatever your task, put yourselves into it,
as done for the Lord and not for your masters,
24 since you know that from the Lord
you will receive the inheritance as your reward;
you serve the Lord Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM — Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R. see Lk 1.52)

R. Blessed be the Lord, who lifts up the lowly.

1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. ***R.***

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? ***R.***

7 The Lord raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ***R.***

Gospel: 724(9).

561B BLESSED FRANCOIS DE LAVAL — MAY 6

bishop — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.
First reading: 722(12); responsorial psalm: 721(5); gospel: 724(10).

561C BLESSED CATHERINE OF SAINT AUGUSTINE — MAY 8

religious — *Optional Memorial*

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742; (Easter season, see no. 738).

FIRST READING — Ephesians 6.10-20

Be strong in the Lord, in the strength of the Lord's power.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Beloved:
10 Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.
11 Put on the whole armour of God,
so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the cosmic powers of this present darkness,
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God,
so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day,
and having done everything, to stand firm.
14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist,
and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

15 As shoes for your feet
put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
16 With all of these, take the shield of faith,
with which you will be able to quench
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times
in every prayer and supplication.
To that end keep alert
and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.
19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak,
a message may be given to me
to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains.

Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 (R.12)

R. Lord, teach me your decrees.

9 How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments. ***R.***

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes. ***R.***

13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches. ***R.***

15 I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.
16 I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. ***R.***

Gospel: 742(13) shorter.

562 NEREUS and ACHILLEUS

MAY 12

martyrs

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 714(2); responsorial psalm: 715(3); gospel: 718(1).

563 PANCRAS

MAY 12

martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 738(3); responsorial psalm: 739(6); gospel: 742(4).

564 MATTHIAS

MAY 14

apostle

Feast

FIRST READING

Acts 1.15-17, 20-26

The lot fell to Matthias, who was then added to the eleven apostles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

15 In the days following the Lord's return to heaven,
Peter stood up among the believers;
together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons.
He said,
16 "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled,
which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas,
who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—
17 for he was numbered among us
and was allotted his share in this ministry.
20 For it is written in the book of Psalms,
'Let his homestead become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it';
and
'Let another take his position of overseer.'

21 "So one of the men who accompanied us
during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
22 beginning from the baptism of John
until the day when he was taken up from us—
one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."

23 So they proposed two,
Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus,
and Matthias.

24 Then they prayed and said,
"Lord, you know everyone's heart.
Show us which one of these two you have chosen
25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship
from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."
26 And they cast lots for the two candidates,
and the lot fell on Matthias;
and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R.7-8)

R. The Lord will count him among his people.++

or: The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. ***R.***

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? ***R.***

7 He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See John 15.16

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord,
to go and bear fruit that will last.

GOSPEL

John 15.9-17

I call you servants no longer, but I call you friends.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
9 "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.
10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 "You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15 I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 "You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

565 JOHN I

MAY 18

pope, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724 (for a pope).
First reading: 738(2); responsorial psalm: 739(4); gospel: 724(9).

566 BERNARDINE OF SIENA

MAY 20

priest, religious, missionary

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries).

FIRST READING

Acts 4.8-12

There is only one name, that of Jesus, by which we will be saved.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Called before the rulers, elders and scribes assembled,
8 Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the members of the council,
"Rulers of the people and elders,
9 if we are questioned today
because of a good deed done to someone who was sick
and are asked how this man has been healed,
10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel,
that this man is standing before you in good health
by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom you crucified,
whom God raised from the dead.

11 "This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'
12 There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals
by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.1+3ab, 6, 7-8, 9 (R. see 7a+8a)

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
3 The Lord put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God. ***R.***

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required. ***R.***

7 Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

Gospel: 742(19).

566A EUGENE DE MAZENOD

MAY 21

bishop, religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.

An alternative reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61.1-6a

The Lord has anointed me to give the Good News to the poor, to give the oil of gladness.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said:
1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;
6 but you shall be called priests of the Lord,
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

1 Corinthians 2.1-13

We teach spiritual things in a spiritual way.

The shorter version (1-10 or 11-13) may begin or end at the asterisk.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you
in lofty words or wisdom.
2 For I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

6 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom,
though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age,
who are doomed to perish.
7 But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden,
which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood this;
for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9 But, as it is written,
"No eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him."
10 These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

* For the Spirit searches everything,
even the depths of God.
11 For what human being knows what is truly human
except the human spirit that is within?
So also no one comprehends what is truly God's
except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.
13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom
but taught by the Spirit,
interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2, 3+10ac, 11+13a (R.3)

R. Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day. ***R.***

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
He will judge the peoples with equity." ***R.***

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
13 for the Lord is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 16.15

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Go out to the whole world;
proclaim the good news to all creation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9.35-38

Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

35 Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues,
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and every sickness.
36 When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them,
because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest."

The gospel of the Lord.

566B BLESSED LOUIS-ZEPHERIN MOREAU

MAY 24

bishop, religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724.

An alternate reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Sirach 38.34b – 39.8

The devoted scribe seeks the wisdom of the Most High.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

The one who devotes himself
to the study of the law of the Most High
1 seeks out the wisdom of all the ancients,
and is concerned with prophecies;
2 he preserves the sayings of the famous
and penetrates the subtleties of parables;
3 he seeks out the hidden meanings of proverbs
and is at home with the obscurities of parables.

4 He serves among the great
and appears before rulers;
he travels in foreign lands
and learns what is good and evil in the human lot.
5 He sets his heart to rise early
to seek the Lord who made him,
and to petition the Most High;
he opens his mouth in prayer
and asks pardon for his sins.
6 If the great Lord is willing,
he will be filled with the spirit of understanding;
he will pour forth words of wisdom of his own
and give thanks to the Lord in prayer.
7 The Lord will direct his counsel and knowledge,
as he meditates on his mysteries.
8 He will show the wisdom of what he has learned,
and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

1 Corinthians 2.1-5

I proclaimed to you the mystery of God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you
in lofty words or wisdom.
2 For I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ➢

3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.
4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom
but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial psalm: 721(1); gospel: 742(22).

567 BEDE THE VENERABLE

MAY 25

priest, religious, doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Doctors, nos. 719-730.
First reading: 728(3); responsorial psalm: 727(3); gospel: 730(2).

568 GREGORY VII

MAY 25

pope, religious

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for a pope).
First reading: 720(2); responsorial psalm: 721(7); gospel: 724(2).

569 MARY MAGDALENE DE PAZZI

MAY 25

religious

Optional Memorial

See Common of Virgins or Holy Men and Women, nos. 731-742 (for religious).
First reading: 734(1); responsorial psalm: 733(2); gospel: 742(14).

570 PHILIP NERI

MAY 26

priest, religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Holy Men and Women, nos. 719-724 or 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 740(10); responsorial psalm: 739(5); gospel: 742(26).

571 AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

MAY 27

bishop, religious, missionary

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors, nos. 719-724 (for missionaries).
First reading: 722(10); responsorial psalm: 721(5); gospel: 724(1).

572 VISITATION OF MARY

MAY 31
Feast

An alternative reading follows this one.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3.14-18

The Lord, Israel's king, is in your midst.

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
18 as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

or:

Romans 12.9-16

Help with taking care of the needs of the saints: open your home to strangers.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Beloved:
9 Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
10 love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour.

11 Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
12 Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
13 Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

14 Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse them.
15 Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.
16 Live in harmony with one another;
do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;
do not claim to be wiser than you are.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Isaiah 12.2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (R.6b)

R. Among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

2 Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ***R.***

4 Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted. ***R.***

5 Sing praises to the Lord,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, O Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 1.45

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled.

GOSPEL

Luke 1.39-56

Why has this honour been given to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

39 Mary set out and went with haste
to a Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

50 "The Lord's mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ➢

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 “The Lord has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
56 And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months
and then returned to her home.

The gospel of the Lord.

573 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Saturday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost *Optional Memorial*

See Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-711.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61.9-11

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

9 The descendants of the just shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R. see 1a)

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 2.19

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God
and pondered it in her heart.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.41-51

His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

41 Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem
for the festival of the Passover.
42 And when Jesus was twelve years old,
they went up as usual for the festival.

43 When the festival was ended and the parents started to return,
the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.
44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers,
they went a day's journey.
Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ➢

45 When they did not find him,
they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

46 After three days they found Jesus in the temple,
sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him they were astonished;
and his mother said to him,
"Child, why have you treated us like this?
Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

49 Jesus said to them,
"Why were you searching for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
50 But they did not understand what he said to them.
51 Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to Joseph and Mary.
His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

The gospel of the Lord.

JUNE

574 JUSTIN

JUNE 1

martyr

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 722(2); responsorial psalm: 715(2); gospel: 730(1).

575 MARCELLINUS and PETER

JUNE 2

martyrs

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 716(4); responsorial psalm: 715(3); gospel: 718(7).

576 CHARLES LWANGA and Companions

JUNE 3

catechist, martyr, and martyrs

Memorial

See Common of Martyrs, nos. 713-718.
First reading: 713(3); responsorial psalm: 715(3); gospel: 742(1).

577 BONIFACE

JUNE 5

bishop, religious, missionary, martyr

Optional Memorial

See Common of Martyrs or Pastors, nos. 713-724 (for missionaries).
First reading: 720(3); responsorial psalm: 721(8); gospel: 724(10).

578 NORBERT

JUNE 6

bishop, religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Pastors or Holy Men and Women, nos. 719-724 or 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 719(9); responsorial psalm: 721(2); gospel: 742(23).

579 EPHREM THE SYRIAN

JUNE 9

deacon, doctor of the Church

Optional Memorial

See Common of Doctors, nos. 725-730.
First reading: 740(11); responsorial psalm: 727(2); gospel: 730(6).

580 BARNABAS

apostle

JUNE 11

Memorial

FIRST READING

Acts 11.21b-26; 13.1-3

Barnabas was a good man, Spirit-filled, a man of faith.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

21 At Antioch,
a great number of the Hellenists became believers
and turned to the Lord.
22 News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem,
and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced,
and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord
with steadfast devotion;
24 for Barnabas was a good man,
full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.
And a great many people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers:
Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger,
Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler,
and Saul.

2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting,
the Holy Spirit said,
"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul
for the work to which I have called them."
3 Then after fasting and praying
they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3c-4, 5-6 (R.2b)

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have won him victory. ***R.***

2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel. ***R.***

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ***R.***

5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. ***R.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 28.19a, 20b

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Go and teach all people my gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10.7-13

You received without payment: give, then, without payment.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus sent the twelve out with the following instructions,
7 "As you go, proclaim the good news,
'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'
8 Cure the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.
You received without payment;
give without payment.

9 "Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,
10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff;
for labourers deserve their food.

11 "Whatever town or village you enter,
find out who in it is worthy,
and stay there until you leave.
12 As you enter the house, greet it.
13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it;
but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

581 ANTHONY OF PADUA

JUNE 13

priest, religious, doctor of the Church

Memorial

See Common of Pastors, Doctors, or Holy Men and Women, nos. 719-730 or 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 719(6); responsorial psalm: 721(4); gospel: 724(8).

582 ROMUALD

JUNE 19

abbot, religious founder

Optional Memorial

See Common of Holy Men and Women, nos. 737-742 (for religious).
First reading: 740(9); responsorial psalm: 739(9); gospel: 742(23).

COMMONS

COMMON OF THE DEDICATION

ON THE DAY OF DEDICATION

Readings for the day of Dedication of a church or altar are found in the Lectionary for Rituals and Various Occasions, nos. 816-822.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

701 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) 1 Kings 8.22-23, 27-30
2) 2 Chronicles 5.6-8, 9b-10, 13 - 6.2
3) Isaiah 56.1, 6-7
4) Ezekiel 43.1-2, 4-7a
5) Ezekiel 47.1-2, 8-9, 12

702 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Acts 7.44-50
2) Revelation 21.1-5a
3) Revelation 21.9b-14

703 Responsorial Psalm

1) 1 Chronicles 29.10, 11, 12 (R.13b)
2) Psalm 46.1-2, 4-5, 7-8 (R.4)
3) Psalm 84.2, 3, 4+9, 10 (R.1 or Rev 21.3b)
4) Psalm 95.1-2, 3-5, 6-7 (R. see 2a)
5) Psalm 122.1-2, 3-4, 8-9 (R. see 1)

704 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) 1 Corinthians 3.9-11, 16-17
2) Ephesians 2.19-22
3) Hebrews 12.18-19, 22-24
4) 1 Peter 2.4-9

705 Gospel Acclamation

1) 2 Chronicles 7.16
2) Isaiah 66.1
3) Ezekiel 37.27
4) See Matthew 7.8
5) Matthew 16.18

706 Gospel Reading

1) Matthew 16.13-19
2) Luke 19.1-10
3) John 2.13-22
4) John 4.5-10, 19-24++
5) John 10.22-30

701 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

701(1)

1 Kings 8.22-23, 27-30

May your eyes keep watch over this house, Lord God.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

On the day of the dedication of the Temple,
22 Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord
in the presence of all the assembly of Israel,
and spread out his hands to heaven.
23 He said, "O Lord, God of Israel,
there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath,
keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants
who walk before you with all their heart.

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth?
Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you,
much less this house that I have built!
28 Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God,
heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;
29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house,
the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,'
that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.

30 "Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel
when they pray toward this place;
O hear in heaven your dwelling place;
heed and forgive."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 84.2, 3, 4+9, 10 (R.1 or Rev 21.3b)

R. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!

or: Here God lives among his people.

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God. ***R.***

3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ***R.***

4 Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.
9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed. ***R.***

10 For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness. ***R.***

701(2)

2 Chronicles 5.6-8, 9b-10, 13 – 6.2

I have built you an exalted house, a place for you, Lord, to dwell in forever.

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

6 King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel,
who had assembled before him, were before the ark,
sacrificing so many sheep and oxen
that they could not be numbered or counted.

7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place,
in the inner sanctuary of the house,
in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.
8 For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark,
so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles;
9 they are there to this day.

10 There was nothing in the ark
except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb,
where the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel
after they came out of Egypt.

13 It was the duty of the trumpeters and singers
to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord,
and when the song was raised,
with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments,
in praise to the Lord,
"For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever,"
the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,
14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud;
for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

1 Then Solomon said,
"The Lord has said that he would reside in thick darkness.
2 I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to reside in forever."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE **1 Chronicles 29.10cd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd (R.13b)**

R. We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

10 Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of our ancestor Israel,
forever and ever. ***R.***

11 Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power,
the glory, the victory, and the majesty.
All that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours. ***R.***

Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.
12 Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. ***R.***

In your hand are power and might;
and it is in your hand to make great
and to give strength to all. ***R.***

701(3)

Isaiah 56.1, 6-7

My house is a house of prayer for all peoples.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 Thus says the Lord:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

6 The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 84.2, 3, 4+9, 10 (R.1 or Rev 21.3b)

R. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!

or: Here God lives among his people.

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God. ***R.***

3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ***R.***

4 Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.
9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed. ***R.***

10 For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness. ***R.***

701(4)

Ezekiel 43.1-2, 4-7a

The Lord's glory fills the temple.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

1 The angel brought me to the gate,
the gate facing east.
2 And there, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east;
the sound was like the sound of mighty waters;
and the earth shone with his glory.

4 As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east,
5 the spirit lifted me up, and brought me into the inner court;
and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

6 While the man who was leading me was standing beside me,
I heard someone speaking to me out of the temple.
7 The voice said to me:
"Mortal, this is the place of my throne
and the place for the soles of my feet,
where I will reside among the people of Israel forever."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE **1 Chronicles 29.10cd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd (R.13b)**

R. We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

10 Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of our ancestor Israel,
forever and ever. ***R.***

11 Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power,
the glory, the victory, and the majesty.
All that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours, ***R.***

Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.
12 Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. ***R.***

In your hand are power and might;
and it is in your hand to make great
and to give strength to all. ***R.***

701(5)

Ezekiel 47.1-2, 8-9, 12

I saw water flowing from the temple and all to whom that water came were saved.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

1 The angel of the Lord brought me back to the entrance of the temple;
there, water was flowing
from below the threshold of the temple toward the east,
(for the temple faced east);
and the water was flowing down
from below the south end of the threshold of the temple,
south of the altar.

2 Then the angel brought me out by way of the north gate,
and led me around on the outside to the outer gate
that faces toward the east;
and the water was coming out on the south side.
8 He said to me,
"This water flows toward the eastern region
and goes down into the Arabah;
and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters,
the water will become fresh.
9 Wherever the river goes,
every living creature that swarms will live,
and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there.
It will become fresh;
and everything will live where the river goes.

12 "On the banks, on both sides of the river,
there will grow all kinds of trees for food.
Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail,
but they will bear fresh fruit every month,
because the water for them flows from the sanctuary.
Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46.1-2, 4-5, 7-8 (R.4)

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God.++

or: The waters of the river gladden the city of God,
home of the Holy One Most High.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea. ***R.***

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns. ***R.***

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what awesome things he has brought on the earth. ***R.***

702 FIRST READING WITHIN EASTER SEASON

702(1)

Acts 7.44-50

The Most High does not dwell in a house made with human hands.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen said to the people, to the elders and scribes:
44 "Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness,
as God directed when he spoke to Moses,
ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen.

45 "Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua
when they dispossessed the nations
that God drove out before our ancestors.
And it was there until the time of David,
who found favour with God
46 and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob.
47 But it was Solomon who built a house for him.

48 "Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands;
as the prophet says,
49 'Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

➢

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what is the place of my rest?
50 Did not my hand make all these things?'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95.1-2, 3-5, 6-7 (R. see 2a)

R. Let us come before the Lord and praise him.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ***R.***

3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed. ***R.***

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. ***R.***

702(2)

Revelation 21.1-5a

Behold, God dwells among his people.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
1 I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them;
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 84.2, 3, 4+9, 10 (R. Rev 21.3b or 1)

R. Here God lives among his people.

or: How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God. ***R.***

3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ***R.***

4 Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.
9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed. ***R.***

10 For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness. ***R.***

702(3)

Revelation 21.9b-14

Come: I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
9 one of the seven angels
who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues
came and said to me,
"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain
and showed me the holy city Jerusalem
coming down out of heaven from God. ➢

11 It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel,
like jasper, clear as crystal.

12 It has a great, high wall with twelve gates,
and at the gates twelve angels,
and on the gates
are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites;
13 on the east three gates,
on the north three gates,
on the south three gates,
and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city has twelve foundations,
and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 122.1-2, 3-4, 8-9 (R. see 1)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. ***R.***

3 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord. ***R.***

8 For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you."
9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good. ***R.***

703 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain: "Alleluia," sung two or three times, may be used in place of the proper refrain.

703(1) — 1 Chronicles 29.10cd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd (R.13b)

R. We praise your glorious name, O mighty God.

10 Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of our ancestor Israel,
forever and ever. ***R.***

11 Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power,
the glory, the victory, and the majesty.
All that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours. ***R.***

Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.
12 Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. ***R.***

In your hand are power and might;
and it is in your hand to make great
and to give strength to all. ***R.***

702(2) — Psalm 46.1-2, 4-5, 7-8 (R.4)

R. The waters of the river gladden the city of God.++

or: The waters of the river gladden the city of God,
home of the Holy One Most High.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea. ***R.***

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns. ***R.***

7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what awesome things he has brought on the earth. ***R.***

703(3)

Psalm 84.2, 3, 4+9, 10 (R.1 or Rev 21.3b)

R. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!

or: Here God lives among his people.

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God. ***R.***

3 Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. ***R.***

4 Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.
9 Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed. ***R.***

10 For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness. ***R.***

703(4)

Psalm 95.1-2, 3-5, 6-7 (R. see 2a)

R. Let us come before the Lord and praise him.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ***R.***

3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed. ***R***

6 O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. ***R.***

703(5) Psalm 122.1-2, 3-4, 8-9 (R. see 1)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. ***R.***

3 Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
4 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord. ***R.***

8 For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you."
9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good. ***R.***

704 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

704(1) 1 Corinthians 3.9-11, 16-17

You are the temple of God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters,
9 we are God's servants, working together;
you are God's field, God's building.
10 According to the grace of God given to me,
like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation,
and someone else is building on it.
Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.
11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid;
that foundation is Jesus Christ.

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple
and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person.
For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

704(2)

Ephesians 2.19-22

In Christ, the whole structure is joined together, and grows into a holy temple.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters,
now in Christ Jesus
19 you are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are citizens with the saints
and also members of the household of God,
20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

21 In Christ the whole structure is joined together
and grows into a holy temple in the Lord;
22 in whom you also are built together spiritually
into a dwelling place for God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

704(3)

Hebrews 12.18-19, 22-24

You have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Beloved,
18 you have not come to something that can be touched,
a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest,
19 and the sound of a trumpet,
and a voice whose words made the hearers beg
that not another word be spoken to them.

22 But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood
that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

704 (4)

1 Peter 2.4-9

Like living stones, you will be built into a spiritual house.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

4 Come to the Lord, a living stone,
though rejected by mortals
yet chosen and precious in God's sight.
5 Like living stones,
let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,
to be a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.

6 For it stands in scripture:
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
7 To you then who believe, he is precious;
but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"
8 and
"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."
They stumble because they disobey the word,
as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of God
who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

705 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of the following verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung or recited; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

705(1) — 2 Chronicles 7.16

I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord,
that my name may remain in it for all time.

705(2) — Isaiah 66.1

Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool, says the Lord;
what is the house that you would build for me?

705(3) — Ezekiel 37.27

My dwelling place shall be with them, says the Lord,
and I will be their God and they will be my people.

705(4) — See Matthew 7.8

In my house, says the Lord, everyone who asks will receive;
whoever seeks shall find; and to those who knock it shall be opened.

705(5) — Matthew 16.18

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

706 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung or recited; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

706(1)

Matthew 16.18

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Matthew 16.13-19

You are Peter; I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

13 When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

14 And the disciples said,
"Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah,
and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 Jesus said to them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
17 And Jesus answered him,
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven.
18 And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

706(2)

See Matthew 7.8

In my house, says the Lord, everyone who asks will receive;
whoever seeks shall find; and to those who knock it shall be opened.

Luke 19.1-10

Behold, this very day has salvation come to your house.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it.
2 A man was there named Zacchaeus;
he was a chief tax collector and was rich.
3 He was trying to see who Jesus was,
but on account of the crowd he could not,
because he was short in stature.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus,
because he was going to pass that way.
5 When Jesus came to the place,
he looked up and said to him,
"Zacchaeus, hurry and come down;
for I must stay at your house today."

6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome Jesus.
7 All who saw it began to grumble and said,
"Jesus has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."

8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,
"Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor;
and if I have defrauded anyone of anything,
I will pay back four times as much."

9 Then Jesus said to him,
"Today salvation has come to this house,
because Zacchaeus too is a son of Abraham.
10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The gospel of the Lord.

706(3)

2 Chronicles 7.16

I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord,
that my name may remain in it for all time.

John 2.13-22

Jesus spoke about his own body as the temple.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves,
and the money changers seated at their tables.
15 Making a whip of cords,
Jesus drove all of them out of the temple,
both the sheep and the cattle.
He also poured out the coins of the money changers
and overturned their tables.
16 He told those who were selling the doves,
"Take these things out of here!
Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

17 His disciples remembered that it was written,
"Zeal for your house will consume me."

18 The Jews then said to Jesus,
"What sign can you show us for doing this?"
19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up."
20 The Jews then said,
"This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and will you raise it up in three days?"
21 But Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body.

22 After he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this;
and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

706(4)

2 Chronicles 7.16

I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord,
that my name may remain in it for all time.

John 4.5-10, 19-24++

The hour is now here when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar,
near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there,
and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well.
It was about noon.
7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water,
and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."
8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him,
"How is it that you, a Jew,
ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"
(Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)
10 "If you knew the gift of God,
and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'
you would have asked him,
and he would have given you living water."
19 "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.
20 Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain,
but you say that the place where people must worship
is in Jerusalem."

21 Jesus said to her,
"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we know,
for salvation is from the Jews.
23 But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.
24 God is spirit,
and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The gospel of the Lord.

706(5)

Ezekiel 37.27

My dwelling place shall be with them, says the Lord,
and I will be their God and they will be my people.

John 10.22-30

Behold, God's dwelling is among his people, that he might live with them.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

22 At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.
It was winter,
23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him,
"How long will you keep us in suspense?
If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."
25 Jesus answered,
"I have told you, and you do not believe.
The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;
26 but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.
27 My sheep hear my voice.
I know them, and they follow me.
28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.
No one will snatch them out of my hand.
29 What my Father has given me is greater than all else,
and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.
30 The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

COMMON OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

707 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) Genesis 3.9-15, 20
2) Genesis 12.1-7
3) 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-11, 16
4) 1 Chronicles 15.3-4, 15-16; 16.1-2
5) Proverbs 8.22-31
6) Sirach 24.1-4, 8-12, 19-22
7) Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d
8) Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7++
9) Isaiah 61.9-11
10) Micah 5.2-5a
11) Zechariah 2.10-13

708 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Acts 1.12-14
2) Revelation 11.19a; 12.1, 3-6a, 10ab
3) Revelation 21.1-5a

709 Responsorial Psalm

1) 1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R. see 1a)
2) Judith 13.18abc, 19-20ab (R.15.9d)
3) Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.10a)
4) Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R. see 2)
5) Luke 1.46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55 (R.49)

710 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) Romans 5.12, 17-19
2) Romans 8.28-30
3) Galatians 4.4-7
4) Ephesians 1.3-6, 11-12

711 Gospel Acclamation

1) See Luke 1.28
2) See Luke 1.45
3) See Luke 2.19
4) Luke 11.28

712 Gospel Reading

1) Matthew 1.1-16, 18-23
2) Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23
3) Matthew 12.46-50
4) Luke 1.26-38
5) Luke 1.39-47
6) Luke 2.1-14
7) Luke 2.15b-19
8) Luke 2.27-35
9) Luke 2.41-52
10) Luke 11.27-28
11) John 2.1-11
12) John 19.25-27

707 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

707(1)

Genesis 3.9-15, 20

I will put hostility between your offspring and the woman's.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

After Adam had disobeyed the Lord's command,
9 the Lord God called and said to him,
"Where are you?"
10 The man said,
"I heard the sound of you in the garden,
and I was afraid, because I was naked;
and I hid myself."

11 The Lord said, "Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
12 The man said,
"The woman whom you gave to be with me,
she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman,
"What is this that you have done?"
The woman said,
"The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

14 The Lord God said to the serpent,
"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

20 The man named his wife Eve,
because she was the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Judith 13.18abc, 19-20ab (R.15.9d)

R. You are the highest honour of our race.

18 O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God
above all other women on earth;
and blessed be the Lord God,
who created the heavens and the earth. ***R.***

19 Your praise will never depart
from the hearts of those who remember the power of God.
20 May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you,
and may he reward you with blessings. ***R.***

707(2)

Genesis 12.1-7

The Lord spoke to our ancestors, to Abraham, and to his descendants for all time.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 The Lord said to Abram,
"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.
2 I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you, and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you,
and the one who curses you I will curse;
and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him;
and Lot went with him.
Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.
5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot,
and all the possessions that they had gathered,
and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran;
and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan.

When they had come to the land of Canaan,
6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem,
to the oak of Moreh.
At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said,
"To your offspring I will give this land."
So Abram built there an altar to the Lord,
who had appeared to him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE
Luke 1.46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55 (R.49)

R. The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

or: O Blessed Virgin Mary, you carried the son of the eternal Father.

46 My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. ***R.***

48 For the Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. ***R.***

50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ***R.***

52 The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty. ***R.***

54 The Lord has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever. ***R.***

707(3)
2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-11, 16

God will give the kingship to David's progeny.

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 When David, the king, was settled in his house,
and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him,
2 the king said to the prophet Nathan,
"See now, I am living in a house of cedar,
but the ark of God stays in a tent."

3 Nathan said to the king,
"Go, do all that you have in mind;
for the Lord is with you."

4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:
5 "Go and tell my servant David:
'Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ➢

8 “‘Thus says the Lord of hosts:
I took you from the pasture,
from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;
9 and I have been with you wherever you went,
and have cut off all your enemies from before you;
and I will make for you a great name,
like the name of the great ones of the earth.

10 “‘And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them,
so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more;
and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;
and I will give you rest from all your enemies.
Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

16 “‘Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me;
your throne shall be established forever.’”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R. see 1a)

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

707(4)

1 Chronicles 15.3-4, 15-16; 16.1-2

The Levites carried the Ark of God into the tent prepared by David.

A reading from the first book of Chronicles.

3 David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem
to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place,
which he had prepared for it.
4 Then David gathered together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites.

15 The Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles,
as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.

16 David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites
to appoint their kindred as the singers to play on musical instruments,
on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise loud sounds of joy.

1 The Levites brought in the ark of God,
and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it;
and they offered burnt offerings and communion offerings before God.

2 When David had finished offering the burnt offerings
and the communion offerings,
he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R. see 2)

R. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. ***R.***

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? ***R.***

7 He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ***R.***

707(5)

Proverbs 8.22-31

In praise of Mary, seat of wisdom.

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

The wisdom of God says this:
22 The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

23 Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
26 when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

27 When the Lord established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
28 when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
29 when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
30 then I was beside the Lord, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
31 rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.10a)

R. Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

707(6)

Sirach 24.1-4, 8-12, 19-22

In praise of Mary, glory of God's people.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 Wisdom praises herself,
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.
2 In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

3 "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.
4 I dwelt in the highest heavens,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

8 "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'

9 "Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me,
and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
10 In the holy tent I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.

11 "Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my domain.
12 I took root in an honoured people,
in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

19 "Come to me, you who desire me,
and eat your fill of my fruits. ➢

20 For the memory of me is sweeter than honey,
and the possession of me sweeter than the honeycomb.

21 "Those who eat of me will hunger for more,
and those who drink of me will thirst for more.
22 Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame,
and those who work with me will not sin."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.10a)

R. Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

707(7)

Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d

The young woman is with child: God is with us.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Isaiah and said,
"Go our to meet Ahaz, and say to the King,
11 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.'"

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask,
and I will not put the Lord to the test."

13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David!
Is it too little for you to weary mortals,
that you weary my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel,"
for God is with us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R. see 1a)

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

707(8)

Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7++
A son is given to us.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3 You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

➢

4 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
The Lord will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R. see 2)

R. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. ***R.***

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? ***R.***

7 The Lord raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ***R.***

707(9)

Isaiah 61.9-11

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

9 The descendants of the just shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R. see 1a)

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

707(10)

Micah 5.2-5a

The remnant will come home when she who is with child is delivered.

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

The Lord says this:
2 You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

3 Therefore the Lord shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

4 And he shall stand
and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure,
for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth:
5 and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R. see 2)

R. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. ***R.***

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? ***R.***

7 The Lord raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ***R.***

707(11)

Zechariah 2.10-13

Lo, I am coming to you, daughter of Zion. Rejoice!

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!
For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.
11 Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day,
and shall be my people;
and I will dwell in your midst.
And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you.
12 The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land,
and will again choose Jerusalem.

13 Be silent, all people, before the Lord;
for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Luke 1.46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55 (R.49)

R. The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

or: O Blessed Virgin Mary, you carried the Son of the eternal Father.

46 My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. ***R.***

48 The Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. ***R.***

50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ***R.***

52 The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty. ***R.***

54 The Lord has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever. ***R.***

708 FIRST READING DURING EASTER SEASON

708(1)

Acts 1.12-14

The apostles, together with Mary the mother of Jesus, prayed constantly.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

12 After Jesus had been taken up into heaven,
the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,
which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

13 When they had entered the city,
they went to the room upstairs where they were staying,
Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew,
Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew,
James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.
14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer,
together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus,
as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Luke 1.46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55 (R.49)

R. The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

or: O Blessed Virgin Mary, you carried the Son of the eternal Father.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

46 My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. ***R.***

48 The Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. ***R.***

50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ***R.***

52 The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty. ***R.***

54 The Lord has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever. ***R.***

708(2)

Revelation 11.19a; 12.1, 3-6a, 10ab

I saw a woman arrayed with the sun, the moon under her feet.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
19 God’s temple in heaven was opened,
and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

1 A great portent appeared in heaven:
a woman clothed with the sun,
with the moon under her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

3 Then another portent appeared in heaven:
a great red dragon,
with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on its heads.
4 Its tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven
and threw them to the earth.
Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child,
so that it might devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child,
who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.
But her child was snatched away
and taken to God and to his throne;
6 and the woman fled into the wilderness,
where she has a place prepared by God.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,
“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah.”

The word of the Lord.
A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.10a)

R. Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

708(3)

Revelation 21.1-5a

I saw the new Jerusalem, like a bride adorned for her husband.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision
1 I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them;
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL CANTICLE

Judith 13.18abc, 19-20ab (R.15.9d)

R. You are the highest honour of our race.

18 O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God
above all other women on earth;
and blessed be the Lord God,
who created the heavens and the earth. ***R.***

19 Your praise will never depart
from the hearts of those who remember the power of God.
20 May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you,
and may he reward you with blessings. ***R.***

709 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain: "Alleluia," sung two or three times, may be used in place of the proper refrain.

709(1)

1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd (R. see 1a)

R. My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Saviour.

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory. ***R.***

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn. ***R.***

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts. ***R.***

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honour. ***R.***

709(2) Judith 13.18abc, 19-20ab (R.15.9d)

R. You are the highest honour of our race.

18 O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God
above all other women on earth;
and blessed be the Lord God,
who created the heavens and the earth. ***R.***

19 Your praise will never depart
from the hearts of those who remember the power of God.
20 May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you,
and may he reward you with blessings. ***R.***

709(3) Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.10a)

R. Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

709(4) Psalm 113.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R. see 2)

R. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.
2 Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore. ***R.***

3 From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.
4 The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens. ***R.***

5 Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
6 who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth? ***R.***

7 He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
8 to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people. ***R.***

709(5)

Luke 1.46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55 (R.49)

R. The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

or: O Blessed Virgin Mary, you carried the son of the eternal Father.

46 My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. ***R.***

48 For the Lord has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. ***R.***

50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ***R.***

52 The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty. ***R.***

54 The Lord has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever. ***R.***

710 READING FROM THE NEW TEST AMENT

710(1)

Romans 5.12, 17-19

However great the power of sin, grace is even greater.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

12 Just as sin came into the world through one man,
and death came through sin,
so death spread to all because all have sinned.

17 If, because of the trespass of one,
death exercised dominion through that one, ➢

much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace
and the free gift of righteousness
exercise dominion in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore just as the trespass of one
led to condemnation for all,
so the act of righteousness of one
leads to justification and life for all.

19 For just as by the disobedience of one
the many were made sinners,
so by the obedience of one
the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

710(2)

Romans 8.28-30

God predestined those whom he knew beforehand.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

28 We know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom God foreknew
he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn
among many brothers and sisters.

30 And those whom God predestined he also called;
and those whom he called he also justified;
and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

710(3)

Galatians 4.4-7

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son, born of a woman.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

4 When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son,
born of a woman,
born under the law,
5 in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
6 And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba! Father!"
7 So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

710(4)

Ephesians 1.3-6, 11-12

We were chosen in Christ, before the world began, to be holy.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
4 God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
to be holy and blameless before him in love.

5 God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,
according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 to the praise of his glorious grace
that God freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of God
who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,
12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ,
might live for the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

711 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of the following verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

711(1) **See Luke 1.28**

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.

711(2) **See Luke 1.45**

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled.

711(3) **See Luke 2.19**

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God
and pondered it in her heart.

711(4) **Luke 11.28**

Blessed are they who hear the word of God
and keep it.

711(5)

Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise;
from you rose the sun of justice, Christ the Lord.

711(6)

Happy are you, O Blessed Virgin Mary;
without dying you won the martyr's crown beside the cross of the Lord.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

712 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

712(1)

Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise;
from you rose the sun of justice, Christ the Lord.

Matthew 1.1-16, 18-23

Mary was the mother of Jesus the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The shorter version (18-23) begins at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

1 An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Aram,
4 Aram the father of Aminadab,
Aminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
6 and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,
7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asaph,
8 Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
Joram the father of Uzziah,
9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amos,
Amos father of Josiah, ➢

11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers,
at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel,
Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
Abiud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
14 Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Achim,
Achim the father of Eliud,
15 Eliud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,
16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary,
of whom Jesus was born,
who is called the Messiah.

18 * Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man
and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,
planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 But just when he had resolved to do this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
21 She will bear a son,
and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place
to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord
through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

The gospel of the Lord.

712(2)

See Luke 1.45

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled.

Matthew 2.13-15, 19-23

Joseph, take the child and his mother: hurry to Egypt.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

13 After the wise men had left,
an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Get up, take the child and his mother,
and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you;
for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."
14 Then Joseph got up,
took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
15 and remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfil
what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet,
"Out of Egypt I have called my son."

19 When Herod died,
an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
and said,
20 "Get up, take the child and his mother,
and go to the land of Israel,
for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."
21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother,
and went to the land of Israel.
22 But when Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea
in place of his father Herod,
he was afraid to go there.
And after being warned in a dream,
he went away to the district of Galilee.
23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth,
so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled,
"He will be called a Nazorean."

The gospel of the Lord.

712(3)

Luke 11.28

Blessed are they who hear the word of God
and keep it.

Matthew 12.46-50

Pointing out his disciples, Jesus said: "Here is my mother! Here are my brothers!"

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

46 While Jesus was speaking to the crowds,
his mother and his brothers were standing outside,
wanting to speak to him.
47 Someone told Jesus,
"Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside,
wanting to speak to you."
48 But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied,
"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

49 And pointing to his disciples, Jesus said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers!
50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother."

The gospel of the Lord.

712(4)

See Luke 1.28

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women.

Luke 1.26-38

You are to be with child, and give birth to a son.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

26 In the sixth month of the pregnancy of Elizabeth,
the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph,
of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel Gabriel came to Mary and said,
"Greetings, favoured one!
The Lord is with you."
29 But Mary was much perplexed by his words
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her,
"Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.

31

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you will name him Jesus.
32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.

36 "And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
37 For nothing will be impossible with God."
38 Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel Gabriel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

712(5)

See Luke 1.45

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled.

Luke 1.39-47

Blessed is she who has believed in the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

39 Mary set out and went with haste
to a Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
42 and exclaimed with a loud cry,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
43 And why has this happened to me,
that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
44

➢

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,
the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment
of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

The gospel of the Lord.

712(6)

Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise;
from you rose the sun of justice, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.1-14

Mary gave birth to her firstborn son.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

1 A decree went out from Emperor Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
2 This was the first registration
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3 All went to their own towns to be registered.

4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,
to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David.
5 He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to the shepherds,
"Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

11

to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.
12 This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

The gospel of the Lord.

712(7)

See Luke 2.19

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God
and pondered it in her heart.

Luke 2.15b-19

Mary treasured all these words, pondering them in her heart.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us."
16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.
17 When the shepherds saw this,
they made known what had been told them about this child;
18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The gospel of the Lord.

712(8)

Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, deserving of all praise;
from you rose the sun of justice, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.27-35

Simeon told Mary, "A sword will pierce your soul, too."

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
to do for him what was customary under the law,
28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,
29

➢

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed
at what was being said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined
for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed
35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

The gospel of the Lord.

712(9)

See Luke 2.19

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God
and pondered it in her heart.

Luke 2.41-52

Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

41 Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem
for the festival of the Passover.
42 And when Jesus was twelve years old,
they went up as usual for the festival.

43 When the festival was ended and the parents started to return,
the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.
44 Assuming that he was in the group of travellers,
they went a day's journey.
Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.
45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

46 After three days they found Jesus in the temple,
sitting among the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

48 When his parents saw him they were astonished;
and his mother said to him,

“Child, why have you treated us like this?
Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.”

49 Jesus said to them,
“Why were you searching for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”
50 But they did not understand what he said to them.

51 Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to Joseph and Mary.
His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,
and in divine and human favour.

The gospel of the Lord.

712(10)

Luke 11.28

Blessed are they who hear the word of God
and keep it.

Luke 11.27-28

Blessed is the womb that bore you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

27 While Jesus was speaking to the people,
a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him,
“Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!”
28 But Jesus said,
“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!”

The gospel of the Lord.

712(11)

See Luke 1.45

Blessed are you, O Virgin Mary, for your firm believing
that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled.

John 2.1-11

The mother of Jesus was at Cana with him.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

1 There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”

➢

4 And Jesus said to her,
"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?
My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants,
"Do whatever he tells you."

6 Now standing there were six stone water jars
for the Jewish rites of purification,
each holding about one hundred litres.
7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water."
And they filled them up to the brim.
8 He said to them, "Now draw some out,
and take it to the chief steward."
So they took it.

9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine,
and did not know where it came from
(though the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,
10 "Everyone serves the good wine first,
and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk.
But you have kept the good wine until now."

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee,
and revealed his glory;
and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

712(12)

Happy are you, O Blessed Virgin Mary;
without dying you won the martyr's crown beside the cross of the Lord.

John 19.25-27

"Woman, behold your son." "This is your mother."

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

25 Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother,
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary Magdalene.
26 When Jesus saw his mother
and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her,
he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."
27 Then Jesus said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
And from that hour the disciple took Mary into his own home.

The gospel of the Lord.

COMMON OF MARTYRS

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

713 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) 2 Chronicles 24.18-22
2) 2 Maccabees 6.18, 21, 24-31
3) 2 Maccabees 7.1-2, 7, 9-14
4) 2 Maccabees 7.1, 20-24a, 27b-29
5) Wisdom 3.1-9
6) Sirach 51.1-8

714 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Acts 7.55-60
2) Revelation 7.9-17
3) Revelation 12.10-12a
4) Revelation 21.5-7

715 Responsorial Psalm

1) Psalm 31. 2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)
2) Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R.4b)
3) Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7a)
4) Psalm 126.1-2ab, 2bc-3, 4-5, 6 (R.5)

716 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) Romans 5.1-5
2) Romans 8.31b-39
3) 2 Corinthians 4.7-15
4) 2 Corinthians 6.4-10
5) 2 Timothy 2.8-13; 3.10-12
6) Hebrews 10.32-36
7) James 1.2-4, 12
8) 1 Peter 3.14-17
9) 1 Peter 4.12-19
10) 1 John 5.1-5

717 Gospel Acclamation

1) Matthew 5.10
2) John 17.19
3) 2 Corinthians 1.3b-4a
4) James 1.12
5) 1 Peter 4.14

718 Gospel Reading

1) Matthew 10.16-22
2) Matthew 10.28-33
3) Matthew 10.34-39
4) Luke 9.23-26
5) John 12.24-26
6) John 15.18-21
7) John 17.11b-19

713 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

713(1)

2 Chronicles 24.18-22

Concerning Zechariah, murdered between the altar and the temple.

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

18 The Judeans abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their ancestors,
and served the pagan shrines and the idols.
And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

19 Yet the Lord sent prophets among them to bring them back to himself;
the prophets testified against Judah and Jerusalem,
but they would not listen.

20 Then the spirit of God
took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada;
Zechariah stood above the people and said to them,
"Thus says God:
'Why do you transgress the commandments of the Lord,
so that you cannot prosper?
Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has also forsaken you.'"

21 But the people conspired against Zechariah,
and by command of the king they stoned him to death
in the court of the house of the Lord.
22 King Joash did not remember the kindness
that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him,
but killed his son.
As Zechariah was dying, he said,
"May the Lord see and avenge!"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

713(2)

2 Maccabees 6.18, 21, 24-31

I am glad to suffer, because I honour the Lord.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

18 Eleazar, one of the scribes in high position,
a man now advanced in age and of noble presence,
was being forced to open his mouth to eat swine's flesh.
21 Those who were in charge of that unlawful sacrifice
took Eleazar aside because of their long acquaintance with him,
and privately urged him to bring meat of his own providing,
proper for him to use,
and to pretend that he was eating the flesh of the sacrificial meal
that had been commanded by the king.

24 "Such pretence is not worthy of our time of life," Eleazar said,
"for many of the young might suppose
that Eleazar in his ninetieth year
had gone over to an alien religion,
25 and through my pretence,
for the sake of living a brief moment longer,
they would be led astray because of me,
while I defile and disgrace my old age.
26 Even if for the present I would avoid the punishment of mortals,
yet whether I live or die
I shall not escape the hands of the Almighty. ➢

27 “Therefore, by bravely giving up my life now,
I will show myself worthy of my old age
28 and leave to the young a noble example of how to die a good death
willingly and nobly for the revered and holy laws.”
When he had said this, he went at once to the rack.

29 Those who a little before had acted toward him with goodwill
now changed to ill will,
because the words he had uttered were, in their opinion, sheer madness.

30 When Eleazar was about to die under the blows,
he groaned aloud and said:
“It is clear to the Lord in his holy knowledge that,
though I might have been saved from death,
I am enduring terrible sufferings in my body under this beating,
but in my soul I am glad to suffer these things because I fear him.”
31 So in this way Eleazar died,
leaving in his death an example of nobility and a memorial of courage,
not only to the young but to the great body of his nation.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R.4b)

R. The Lord set me free from all my fears.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

713(3)

2 Maccabees 7.1-2, 7, 9-14++

We prefer death to breaking our ancient tradition and law.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

1 It happened that seven brothers and their mother were arrested
and were being compelled by King Antiochus,
under torture with whips and thongs,
to partake of unlawful swine's flesh.

2 One of the brothers, speaking for all, said,
"What do you intend to ask and learn from us?
For we are ready to die
rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors."
7 After the first brother had died,
they brought forward the second for their sport.
9 And when the second brother was at his last breath,
he said to King Antiochus,
"You accursed wretch,
you dismiss us from this present life,
but the King of the universe will raise us up
to an everlasting renewal of life,
because we have died for his laws."

10 After him, the third was the victim of their sport.
When it was demanded,
he quickly put out his tongue
and courageously stretched forth his hands,
11 and said nobly,
"I got these from Heaven,
and because of God's laws I disdain them,
and from God I hope to get them back again."
12 As a result the king himself and those with him
were astonished at the young man's spirit,
for he regarded his sufferings as nothing.

13 After the third brother too had died,
they maltreated and tortured the fourth in the same way.
14 When he was near death, he said to his torturers,
"One cannot but choose to die at the hands of mortals
and to cherish the hope God gives
of being raised again by him.
But for you, there will be no resurrection to life!"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7a)

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

2 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us. ***R.***

4 Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ***R.***

7 The snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. ***R.***

713(4)

2 Maccabees 7.1, 20-24a, 27b-29

The mother, hopeful in the Lord, honourably endured her sons' martyrdom.

A reading from the second book of Maccabees.

1 Seven brothers and their mother were arrested,
and were being compelled by King Antiochus,
under torture with whips and thongs,
to partake of unlawful swine's flesh.

20 The mother was especially admirable and worthy of honourable memory.
Although she saw her seven sons perish within a single day,
she bore it with good courage because of her hope in the Lord.
21 She encouraged each of them in the language of their ancestors.

Filled with a noble spirit,
she reinforced her woman's reasoning with a man's courage,
and said to them,
22 "I do not know how you came into being in my womb.
It was not I who gave you life and breath,
nor I who set in order the elements within each of you.
23 "Therefore the Creator of the world,
who shaped the beginning of the human race
and devised the origin of all things,
will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again,
since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws."

24 The youngest brother being still alive,
27 the mother leaned close to him, and spoke as follows:
"My son, have pity on me.
I carried you nine months in my womb,
and nursed you for three years,
and have reared you and brought you up to this point in your life,
and have taken care of you.

28 "I beg you, my child, to look at the heaven and the earth
and see everything that is in them,
and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed.
And in the same way the human race came into being.

29 "Do not fear this butcher,
but prove worthy of your brothers.
Accept death, so that in God's mercy
I may get you back again along with your brothers."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

713(5)

Wisdom 3.1-9

God accepted the virtuous as a holocaust.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

1 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
3 and their going from us to be their destruction;
but the righteous are at peace.

4 For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

5 Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
6 like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

7 In the time of their visitation the righteous will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
8 They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.

9 Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and the Lord watches over his elect.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 126.1-2ab, 2bc-3, 4-5, 6 (R.5)

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***R.***

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. ***R.***

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the desert of the Negev.
5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. ***R.***

6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. ***R.***

713(6)

Sirach 51.1-8

You have delivered me, O Lord my saviour, faithful to your merciful love and holy name.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 I give you thanks, O Lord and King,
and praise you, O God my Saviour.
I give thanks to your name,
2 for you have been my protector and helper
and have delivered me from destruction
and from the trap laid by a slanderous tongue,
from lips that fabricate lies.

In the face of my adversaries
you have been my helper and delivered me,
3 in the greatness of your mercy and of your name,
from grinding teeth about to devour me,
from the hand of those seeking my life,
from the many troubles I endured,
4 from choking fire on every side,
and from the midst of fire that I had not kindled,
5 from the deep belly of Hades,
from an unclean tongue and lying words—
6 the slander of an unrighteous tongue to the king.

My soul drew near to death,
and my life was on the brink of Hades below.
7 They surrounded me on every side,
and there was no one to help me;
I looked for human assistance, and there was none.

8 Then I remembered your mercy, O Lord,
and your kindness from of old,
for you rescue those who wait for you
and save them from the hand of their enemies.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7a)

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

2 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us. ***R.***

4 Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ***R.***

7 The snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. ***R.***

714 FIRST READING WITHIN EASTER SEASON

714(1)

Acts 7.55-60

Lord Jesus, receive my soul.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
57 But his enemies covered their ears,
and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him;
and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While he was being stoned, Stephen prayed,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,
"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
When he had said this, he fell asleep in the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 31.2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

714(2)

Revelation 7.9-17

These are the people who have been through the great persecution.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
9 I, John, looked,
and there was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation,
from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne
and around the elders and the four living creatures,
and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,
12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honour
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,
"Who are these, robed in white,
and where have they come from?" ➢

14 I said to him,
"Sir, you are the one that knows."
Then the elder said to me,
"These are they who have come out of the great ordeal;
they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16 "They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
17 for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7a)

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

2 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us. ***R.***

4 Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ***R.***

7 The snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. ***R.***

714(3)

Revelation 12.10-12a

They did not cling to life even in the face of death.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
10 I, John, heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,
"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Messiah,
for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.

11 "But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

12 "Rejoice then, you heavens
and those who dwell in them!"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R.5b)

R. The Lord set me free from all my fears.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

714(4)

Revelation 21.5-7

Those who conquer will inherit the waters of life.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
5 the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."
Also he said,
"Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 Then he said to me,
"It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water as a gift
from the spring of the water of life.
7 Those who conquer will inherit these things,
and I will be their God and they will be my children."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 126.1-2ab, 2bc-3, 4-5, 6 (R.5)

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***R.***

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. ***R.***

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the desert of the Negev.
5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. ***R.***

6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. ***R.***

715 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain: "Alleluia," sung two or three times, may be used in place of the proper refrain.

715(1)

Psalm 31. 2cd-3ab, 5+7ab, 15bc-16 (R.5a)

R. Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

2 Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me. ***R.***

5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
7 I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction. ***R.***

15 Deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and from the hand of my persecutors.
16 Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love. ***R.***

715(2)

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (R.4b)

R. The Lord set me free from all my fears.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

715(3)

Psalm 124.2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 (R.7a)

R. Our soul has escaped like a bird from the hunter's net.

2 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
3 then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us. ***R.***

4 Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
5 then over us would have gone
the raging waters. ***R.***

7 The snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. ***R.***

715(4)

Psalm 126.1-2ab, 2bc-3, 4-5, 6 (R.5)

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***R.***

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. ***R.***

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the desert of the Negev.
5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. ***R.***

6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. ***R.***

716 READING FROM THE NEW TEST AMENT

716(1)

Romans 5.1-5

We boast also in our sufferings.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

1 Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

3 And not only that,
but we also boast in our sufferings,
knowing that suffering produces endurance,
4 and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope,
5 and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(2)

Romans 8.31b-39

Neither life nor death can separate us from the love of God.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

31 If God is for us, who is against us?
32 He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?

33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
34 Who is to condemn?

Is it Christ Jesus,
who died, and indeed, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us?

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

➢

36 As it is written,
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
39 nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(3)

2 Corinthians 4.7-15

We carry in our body the death of Jesus.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

7 We have this treasure in clay vessels,
so that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power belongs to God
and does not come from us.
8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
9 persecuted, but not forsaken;
struck down, but not destroyed;
10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

11 For while we live,
we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake,
so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.
12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

13 Just as we have the same spirit of faith
that is in accordance with scripture—
"I believed, and so I spoke"—
we also believe, and so we speak,
14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus
will raise us also with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his presence.

15 Yes, everything is for your sake,
so that grace, as it extends to more and more people,
may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(4)

2 Corinthians 6.4-10

We are said to be dying, yet see, we are alive!

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

4 As servants of God
we have commended ourselves in every way:
through great endurance,
in afflictions, hardships, calamities,
5 beatings, imprisonments, riots,
labours, sleepless nights, hunger;
6 by purity, knowledge, patience,
kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,
7 truthful speech, and the power of God;
with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;
8 in honour and dishonour,
in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;
9 as unknown, and yet are well known;
as dying, and see—we are alive;
as punished, and yet not killed;
10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich;
as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(5)

2 Timothy 2.8-13; 3.10-12

Those devoted to Christ will suffer persecutions.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

8 Remember Jesus Christ,
raised from the dead, a descendant of David—
that is my gospel,
9 for which I suffer hardship,
even to the point of being chained like a criminal.
But the word of God is not chained.

10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,
so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus,
with eternal glory.

11 The saying is sure:
If we have died with him,
we will also live with him;
12 if we endure,
we will also reign with him;
if we deny him,
he will also deny us;
13 if we are faithless,
he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

10 You have observed my teaching,
my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience,
my love, my steadfastness,
11 my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me
in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra.

What persecutions I endured!
Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.
12 Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(6)

Hebrews 10.32-36

You have come through much suffering.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

My brothers and sisters,
32 recall those earlier days when,
after you had been enlightened,
you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,
33 sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution,
and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

34 For you had compassion for those who were in prison,
and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions,
knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting.

35 Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours;
it brings a great reward.
36 For you need endurance,
so that when you have done the will of God,
you may receive what was promised.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(7)

James 1.2-4, 12

Blessed are those who face trials firmly.

A reading from the letter of James.

2 My brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials of any kind,
consider it nothing but joy,
3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance;
4 and let endurance have its full effect,
so that you may be mature and complete,
lacking in nothing.

12 Blessed is anyone who endures temptation.
Such a one has stood the test
and will receive the crown of life
that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(8)

1 Peter 3.14-17

There is no need to worry, no need to fear.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

14 If you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.
Do not fear what they fear,
and do not be intimidated,
15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.
Always be ready to make your defense
to anyone who demands from you
an accounting for the hope that is in you;
16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear,
so that, when you are maligned,
those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ
may be put to shame.
17 For it is better to suffer for doing good,
if suffering should be God's will,
than to suffer for doing evil.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(9)

1 Peter 4.12-19

Rejoice, for you share Christ's sufferings.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal
that is taking place among you to test you,
as though something strange were happening to you.
13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout for joy
when his glory is revealed.

14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed,
because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God,
is resting on you.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal,
or even as a mischief maker.

16 Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian,
do not consider it a disgrace,
but glorify God because you bear this name.

17 For the time has come
for judgment to begin with the household of God;
if it begins with us,
what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
18 And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?"
19 Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will
entrust themselves to a faithful Creator,
while continuing to do good.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

716(10)

1 John 5.1-5

The victory that conquers the world is our faith.

A reading from the first letter of John.

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been born of God,
and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.
2 By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and obey his commandments.
3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world.
And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.
5 Who is it that conquers the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

717 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of these verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

717(1) **Matthew 5.10**

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

717(2) **John 17.19**

For their sake I consecrate myself, says the Lord,
so that they too may be consecrated in the truth.

717(3) **2 Corinthians 1.3b-4a**

Blessed be the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,
who consoles us in all our afflictions.

717(4) **James 1.12**

Blessed are those who stand firm when trials come;
when they have stood the test, they will win the crown of life.

717(5) **1 Peter 4.14**

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you,
for the Spirit of God rests upon you.

717(6)

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as Lord;
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

717-718 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung or recited; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

718(1)

Matthew 5.10

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Matthew 10.16-22++

You will be brought before rulers and kings on my account;
you will bear witness before authorities and populace.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve:
"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves;
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils
and flog you in their synagogues;
18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me,
as a testimony to them and the Gentiles.

19 "When they hand you over,
do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say;
for what you are to say will be given to you at that time;
20 for it is not you who speak,
but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child,
and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;
22 and you will be hated by all because of my name.
But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

The gospel of the Lord.

718(2)

James 1.12

Blessed are those who stand firm when trials come;
when they have stood the test, they will win the crown of life.

Matthew 10.28-33

Do not be afraid of those who can kill only the body.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his twelve disciples:
28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;
rather fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.
30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted.
31 So do not be afraid;
you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others,
I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven;
33 but whoever denies me before others,
I also will deny before my Father in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

718(3)

Matthew 5.10

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Matthew 10.34-39

I bring not peace, but a sword.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his twelve disciples:
34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth;
I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
35 For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me;
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;

38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me
is not worthy of me.

39 “Those who find their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

718(4)

1 Peter 4.14

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you,
for the Spirit of God rests upon you.

Luke 9.23-26

Those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

23 Jesus said to all his disciples,
“If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

24 “For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.
25 What does it profit them if they gain the whole world,
but lose or forfeit themselves?

26 “Those who are ashamed of me and of my words,
of them the Son of Man will be ashamed
when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father
and of the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

718(5)

James 1.12

Blessed are those who stand firm when trials come;
when they have stood the test, they will win the crown of life.

John 12.24-26

When the seed of grain dies, it bears much fruit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
24 “Very truly, I tell you,
unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

➢

25 “Those who love their life lose it,
and those who hate their life in this world
will keep it for eternal life.

26 “Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also.
Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

718(6)

We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as Lord;
the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

John 15.18-21

If the world has persecuted me, so will it persecute you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
18 “If the world hates you,
be aware that it hated me before it hated you.
19 If you belonged to the world,
the world would love you as its own.
Because you do not belong to the world,
but I have chosen you out of the world—
therefore the world hates you.

20 “Remember the word that I said to you,
‘Servants are not greater than their master.’
If they persecuted me, they will persecute you;
if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.
21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name,
because they do not know him who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

718(7)

2 Corinthians 1.3b-4a

Blessed be the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort,
who consoles us in all our afflictions.

John 17.11b-19

The world hates the disciples of Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When the hour had come for Jesus to pass from this world to his Father,
he raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, saying:
11 “Holy Father,
protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.

12 “While I was with them,
I protected them in your name that you have given me.
I guarded them,
and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,
so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 “But now I am coming to you,
and I speak these things in the world
so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.
14 I have given them your word,
and the world has hated them
because they do not belong to the world,
just as I do not belong to the world.
15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world,
but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.
16 They do not belong to the world,
just as I do not belong to the world.

17 “Sanctify them in the truth;
your word is truth.
18 As you have sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.
19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself,
so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

COMMON OF PASTORS

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

719 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) Exodus 32.7-14
2) Deuteronomy 10.8-9
3) 1 Samuel 16.1, 6-13
4) Isaiah 6.1-8
5) Isaiah 52.7-10
6) Isaiah 61.1-3
7) Jeremiah 1.4-9
8) Ezekiel 3.16-21
9) Ezekiel 34.11-16

720 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Acts 13.46-49
2) Acts 20.17-18a, 28-32, 36
3) Acts 26.19-23

721 Responsorial Psalm

1) Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)
2) Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4; 5, 6 (R.1)
3) Psalm 40.1+3ab, 6, 7-8, 9 (R. see 7a+8a)
4) Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 20-21, 24+26 (R.2a)
5) Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 (R.3)
6) Psalm 106.19-20, 21-22, 23 (R.4a)
7) Psalm 110.1-2, 3, 4 (R.4b)
8) Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

722 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) Romans 12.3-13
2) 1 Corinthians 1.18-25
3) 1 Corinthians 4.1-5
4) 1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23
5) 2 Corinthians 3.1-6a
6) 2 Corinthians 4.1-2, 5-7
7) 2 Corinthians 5.14-20
8) Ephesians 4.1-7, 11-13
9) Colossians 1.24-29
10) 1 Thessalonians 2.2b-8
11) 2 Timothy 1.13-14; 2.1-3
12) 2 Timothy 4.1-5
13) 1 Peter 5.1-4

723 Gospel Acclamation

1) Matthew 23.9b, 10b
2) Matthew 28.19a, 20b
3) Mark 1.17
4) Luke 4.18-19
5) John 10.14
6) John 15.5
7) John 15.15b
8) 2 Corinthians 5.19

724 Gospel Reading

1) Matthew 9.35-38
2) Matthew 16.13-19
3) Matthew 23.8-12
4) Matthew 28.16-20
5) Mark 1.14-20
6) Mark 16.15-20
7) Luke 5.1-11
8) Luke 10.1-9
9) Luke 22.24-30
10) John 10.11-16
11) John 15.9-17
12) John 21.15-17

719 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

719(1)

Exodus 32.7-14

God considered destroying the rebellious Israelites;
but Moses, his chosen one, pleaded for the people, and turned aside God's anger.

A reading from the book of Exodus.

7 On Mount Sinai, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
"Go down at once!
Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt,
have acted perversely;
8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them;
they have cast for themselves an image of a calf,
and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said,
'These are your gods, O Israel,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

9 The Lord said to Moses,
"I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
10 Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them
and I may consume them;
and of you I will make a great nation."

11 But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said,
"O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people,
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt
with great power and with a mighty hand?
12 Why should the Egyptians say,
'It was with evil intent that he brought them out
to kill them in the mountains,
and to consume them from the face of the earth'?

"Turn from your fierce wrath;
change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants,
how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them,
'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven,
and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants,
and they shall inherit it forever.'"

14 And the Lord changed his mind
about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 106.19-20, 21-22, 23 (R.4a)

R. Lord, remember us, for the love you bear your people.

19 The Israelites made a calf at Horeb
and worshipped a cast image.
20 They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass. ***R.***

21 They forgot God, their Saviour,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. ***R.***

23 Therefore God said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them. ***R.***

719(2)

Deuteronomy 10.8-9

The Lord is the inheritance of all who serve him.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying,
8 "The Lord set apart the tribe of Levi
to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord,
to stand before the Lord to minister to him,
and to bless in his name, to this day.

9 "Therefore Levi has no allotment or inheritance with his kindred;
the Lord is his inheritance, as the Lord your God promised him."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a 1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

719(3)

1 Samuel 16.1, 6-13

Rise, anoint David: he is the Lord's choice for king.

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

1 The Lord said to Samuel,
"How long will you grieve over Saul?
I have rejected him from being king over Israel.
Fill your horn with oil and set out;
I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite,
for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

6 When Samuel, accompanied by the elders of Bethlehem came,
he looked on Eliab and thought,
"Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord."
7 But the Lord said to Samuel,
"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature,
because I have rejected him;
for the Lord does not see as mortals see;
they look on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel.
Samuel said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."
9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by.
And Samuel said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."
10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel,
and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"
And Jesse said, "There remains yet the youngest,
but he is keeping the sheep."
And Samuel said to Jesse,
"Send and bring him;
for we will not sit down until he comes here."

12 Jesse sent and brought David in.
Now David was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.
The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him;
for this is the one."

➢

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil,
and anointed him in the presence of his brothers;
and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.
Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 20-21, 24+26 (R.2a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

3 You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
4 ‘I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.’ ***R.***

20 “I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
21 my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him. ***R.***

24 “My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his name shall be exalted.
26 He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’” ***R.***

719(4)

Isaiah 6.1-8

Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 In the year that King Uzziah died,
I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty;
and the hem of his robe filled the temple.
2 Seraphs were in attendance above him;
each had six wings:
with two they covered their faces,
and with two they covered their feet,
and with two they flew.
3 And one called to another and said:
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called,
and the house filled with smoke.

5 And I said:
“Woe is me!
I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips,
and I live among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me,
holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.
7 The seraph touched my mouth with it and said:
“Now that this has touched your lips,
your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 40.1+3ab, 6, 7-8, 9 (R. see 7a+8a)

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
3 The Lord put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God. ***R.***

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required. ***R.***

7 Then I said, “Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.” ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

719(5) (for missionaries)

Isaiah 52.7-10

The farthest corners of the earth shall see God's gift of salvation.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 (R.3)

R. Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name. ***R.***

Tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
tell of his marvellous works among all the peoples. ***R.***

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. ***R.***

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity." ***R.***

719(6)

Isaiah 61.1-3

The Lord God anointed me, and sent me to bring good news to the poor.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 20-21, 24+26 (R.2a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
4 'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.' ***R.***

20 "I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
21 my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him. ***R.***

24 "My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his name shall be exalted.
26 He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'" ***R.***

719(7)

Jeremiah 1.4-9

You shall go to all to whom I send you.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

4 The word of the Lord came to me saying,
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
6 Then I said,
"Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak,
for I am only a boy."
7 But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you,
8 Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."
9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the Lord said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 (R.3)

R. Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name. ***R.***

Tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
tell of his marvellous works among all the peoples. ***R.***

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. ***R.***

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity." ***R.***

719(8)

Ezekiel 3.16-21

I have made you a sentinel for the house of David.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

16 The word of the Lord came to me:
17 Mortal, I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel;
whenever you hear a word from my mouth,
you shall give them warning from me.
18 If I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die,"
and you give them no warning,
or speak to warn the wicked from their wicked way,
in order to save their life,
those wicked persons shall die for their iniquity;
but their blood I will require at your hand.
19 But if you warn the wicked,
and they do not turn from their wickedness,
or from their wicked way,
they shall die for their iniquity;
but you will have saved your life.
20 Again, if the righteous turn from their righteousness
and commit iniquity,
and I lay a stumbling block before them, they shall die;
because you have not warned them,
they shall die for their sin,
and their righteous deeds that they have done
shall not be remembered;
but their blood I will require at your hand.
21 If, however, you warn the righteous not to sin,
and they do not sin,
they shall surely live, because they took warning;
and you will have saved your life.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples! ***R.***

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. ***R.***

719(9)

Ezekiel 34.11-16

I will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord God:
I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.
12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep,
so I will seek out my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
13 I will bring them out from the peoples
and gather them from the countries,
and will bring them into their own land;
and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,
by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.
14 I will feed them with good pasture,
and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture;
there they shall lie down in good grazing land,
and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

16 I will seek the lost,
and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured,
and I will strengthen the weak,
but the fat and the strong I will destroy.
I will feed my sheep with justice.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4; 5, 6 (R.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

720 FIRST READING WITHIN EASTER SEASON

720(1) (for missionaries)

Acts 13.46-49

We are now turning to the Gentiles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly to the Jews, saying,
"It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you.
Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life,
we are now turning to the Gentiles.
47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,
'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles,
so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

48 When the Gentiles heard this,
they were glad and praised the word of the Lord;
and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.
49 Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples! ***R.***

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. ***R.***

720(2)

Acts 20.17-18a, 28-32, 36

Be watchful for yourselves,
and for the flock which the Holy Spirit has called you to shepherd.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

17 From Miletus Paul sent a message to Ephesus,
asking the elders of the church to meet him.
18 When they came to him, he said to them:
28 "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock,
of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,
to shepherd the church of God
that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.

29 "I know that after I have gone,
savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
30 Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth
in order to entice the disciples to follow them.
31 Therefore be alert,
remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day
to warn everyone with tears.

32 "And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace,
a message that is able to build you up
and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified."

36 When he had finished speaking,
he knelt down with them all and prayed.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 110.1-2, 3, 4 (R.4b)

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 The Lord says to my lord, "Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool."
2 The Lord sends out from Zion your mighty sceptre.
Rule in the midst of your foes. ***R.***

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly
on the day you lead your forces on the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning,
like dew, your youth will come to you. ***R.***

4 The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek." ***R.***

720(3) (for missionaries)

Acts 26.19-23

The Messiah announced the light to our people and to the Gentiles.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul was brought into the audience hall before King Agrippa and Bernice,
and began his defense:
19 "King Agrippa,
I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
20 but declared first to those in Damascus,
then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea,
and also to the Gentiles,
that they should repent and turn to God
and do deeds consistent with repentance.
21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.

22 "To this day I have had help from God,
and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great,
saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place:
23 that the Messiah must suffer,
and that, by being the first to rise from the dead,
he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples! ***R.***

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. ***R.***

721 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain "Alleluia," sung two or three times, may be used in place of the proper refrain.

721(1)

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

721(2)

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4; 5, 6 (R.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

721(3)

Psalm 40.1+3ab, 6, 7-8, 9 (R. see 7a+8a)

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
3 The Lord put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God. ***R.***

6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required. ***R.***

7 Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart." ***R.***

9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord. ***R.***

721(4)

Psalm 89.1-2, 3-4, 20-21, 24+26 (R.2a)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ***R.***

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
4 'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.' ***R.***

20 "I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
21 my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him. ***R.***

24 “My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his name shall be exalted.
26 He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’” ***R.***

721(5)

Psalm 96.1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10 (R.3)

R. Proclaim God’s marvellous deeds to all the nations.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name. ***R.***

Tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
tell of his marvellous works among all the peoples. ***R.***

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. ***R.***

10 Say among the nations, “The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established;
it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.” ***R.***

721(6)

Psalm 106.19-20, 21-22, 23 (R.4a)

R. Lord, remember us, for the love you bear your people.

19 The Israelites made a calf at Horeb
and worshipped a cast image.
20 They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass. ***R.***

21 They forgot God, their Saviour,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea. ***R.***

23 Therefore God said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them. ***R.***

721(7)

Psalm 110.1-2, 3, 4 (R.4b)

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 The Lord says to my lord, "Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies your footstool."
2 The Lord sends out from Zion your mighty sceptre.
Rule in the midst of your foes. ***R.***

3 Your people will offer themselves willingly
on the day you lead your forces on the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning,
like dew, your youth will come to you. ***R.***

4 The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek." ***R.***

721(8)

Psalm 117.1, 2 (R. Mk 16.15)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the good news.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations!
Extol him, all you peoples! ***R.***

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. ***R.***

722 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

722(1)

Romans 12.3-13

Our gifts are different, according to God's gift of grace to us.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

3 By the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you:
do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think,
but think with sober judgment,
each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
4 For as in one body we have many members,
and not all the members have the same function,
5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.

➢

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

9 Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
10 love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour.

11 Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
12 Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
13 Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(2)

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

God chose to save those who believe through the foolishness of our preaching

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19 For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise?
Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
21 For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation,
to save those who believe.
22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
23 but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

24

but to those who are the called,
both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(3)

1 Corinthians 4.1-5

Let us be servants of Christ, stewards of God's mysteries.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 My brothers and sisters:
think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.
2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.
3 But with me it is a very small thing
that I should be judged by you or by any human court.
I do not even judge myself.
4 I am not aware of anything against myself,
but I am not thereby acquitted.
It is the Lord who judges me.

5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time,
before the Lord comes,
who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
Then each one will receive commendation from God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(4)

1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23

Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

16 If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting,
for an obligation is laid on me,
and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!
17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward;
but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.

➢

18

What then is my reward?
Just this:
that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge,
so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.
19 For though I am free with respect to all,
I have made myself a slave to all,
so that I might win more of them.

22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak.
I have become all things to all people,
that I might by all means save some.
23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel,
so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(5)

2 Corinthians 3.1-6a

God has made us competent to be ministers of the new covenant.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 We do not need, as some do,
letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we?
2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts,
to be known and read by all;
3 and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us,
written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God,
not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.
5 Not that we are competent of ourselves
to claim anything as coming from us;
our competence is from God,
6 who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(6)

2 Corinthians 4.1-2, 5-7

We proclaim Jesus as Lord, and for his sake, we have become your slaves.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry,
we do not lose heart.
2 We have renounced the shameful things that one hides;
we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word;
but by the open statement of the truth
we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

5 For we do not proclaim ourselves;
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
7 But we have this treasure in clay vessels,
so that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power belongs to God
and does not come from us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(7)

2 Corinthians 5.14-20

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

14 The love of Christ urges us on,
because we are convinced that one has died for all;
therefore all have died.
15 And he died for all,
so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died and was raised for them.
16 From now on, therefore,
we regard no one from a human point of view.

Even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we know him no longer in that way.
17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

18 ➢

All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;
19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
not counting their trespasses against them,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ,
since God is making his appeal through us;
we entreat you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(8)

Ephesians 4.1-7, 11-13

In ministering, we help build the body of Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

1 I, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another in love,
3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.
7 But each of us was given grace
according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11 The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists,
some pastors and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(9)

Colossians 1.24-29

I became the servant of the church when God made me responsible for delivering his message to you.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

24 I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake,
and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions
for the sake of his body, that is, the church.
25 I became its servant according to God's commission
that was given to me for you,
to make the word of God fully known,
26 the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations
but has now been revealed to his saints.

27 To them God chose to make known
how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery,
which is Christ in you,
the hope of glory.
28 It is he whom we proclaim,
warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
29 For this I toil and struggle
with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(10)

1 Thessalonians 2.2b-8

We give you the good news, and our lives as well.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

2 We had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God
in spite of great opposition.
3 For our appeal does not spring from deceit
or impure motives or trickery,
4 but just as we have been approved by God
to be entrusted with the message of the gospel,
even so we speak,
not to please mortals,
but to please God who tests our hearts.

5 As you know and as God is our witness,
we never came with words of flattery
or with a pretext for greed;

➢

6 nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others,
7 though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.
But we were gentle among you,
like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.

8 So deeply do we care for you
that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God
but also our own selves,
because you have become very dear to us.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(11)

2 Timothy 1.13-14; 2.1-3

Entrusted as you have been with a precious gift, guard it with the help of the indwelling Spirit.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
14 Guard the good treasure entrusted to you,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

1 You then, my child,
be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus;
2 and what you have heard from me through many witnesses
entrust to faithful people
who will be able to teach others as well.
3 Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(12)

2 Timothy 4.1-5

Preach the good news, for that is your special work.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,
I solemnly urge you:
2 proclaim the message;
be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage,
with the utmost patience in teaching.

3 For the time is coming
when people will not put up with sound doctrine,
but having itching ears,
they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires,
4 and will turn away from listening to the truth
and wander away to myths.

5 As for you,
always be sober,
endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist,
carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

722(13)

1 Peter 5.1-4

Shepherd God's people entrusted to you.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

1 As an elder myself
and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,
as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed,
I exhort the elders among you
2 to tend the flock of God that is in your charge,
exercising the overseeing,
not under compulsion but willingly,
as God would have you do it—
not for sordid gain, but eagerly.
3 Do not lord it over those in your charge,
but be examples to the flock.
4 And when the chief shepherd appears,
you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

723 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of these verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

723(1) — Matthew 23.9b, 10b

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ!

723(2) — Matthew 28.19a, 20b

Go and teach all people my gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

723(3) — Mark 1.17

Come, follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

723(4) — Luke 4.18-19

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

723(5) — John 10.14

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

723(6) — John 15.5

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord;
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

723(7) — John 15.15b

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

723(8) — 2 Corinthians 5.19

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

723-724 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

724(1)

John 10.14

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Matthew 9.35-38

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

35 Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues,
and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and every sickness.
36 When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them,
because they were harassed and helpless,
like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest."

The gospel of the Lord.

724(2) (for a pope)

Mark 1.17

Come, follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

Matthew 16.13-19

You are Peter;
I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

13 When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi,
he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

14 And the disciples said,
"Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah,
and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ➢

15 Jesus said to them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered,
"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
17 And Jesus answered him,
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven.
18 And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

724(3)

Matthew 23.9b, 10b

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Matthew 23.8-12

Let the greatest among you be the one who serves.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:
8 "You are not to be called rabbi,
for you have one teacher, and you are all students.
9 And call no one your father on earth,
for you have one Father—the one in heaven.
10 Nor are you to be called instructors,
for you have one instructor, the Messiah.

11 "The greatest among you will be your servant.
12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

The gospel of the Lord.

724(4) (for missionaries)

Matthew 28.19a, 20b

Go and teach all people my gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Matthew 28.16-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

After Jesus had risen from the dead,
16 the eleven disciples went to Galilee,
to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
17 When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him;
but some doubted.
18 And Jesus came and said to them,
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The gospel of the Lord.

724(5)

Mark 1.17

Come, follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

Mark 1.14-20

I will make you into fishers of my people.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

14 After John the Baptist was arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying,
15 "The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news."

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—
for they were fishermen.
17 And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ➢

19 As he went a little farther,
he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,
who were in their boat mending the nets.

20 Immediately he called them;
and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men,
and followed Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

724(6) (for missionaries)

Matthew 28.19a, 20b

Go and teach all people my gospel;
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Mark 16.15-20

Go forth to the whole world;
proclaim the good news to all creation.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

15 Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them,
“Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.
16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

17 “And these signs will accompany those who believe:
by using my name they will cast out demons;
they will speak in new tongues;
18 they will pick up snakes in their hands,
and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them;
they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them,
was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
20 And the Eleven went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them
and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

The gospel of the Lord.

724(7) (for missionaries)

Mark 1.17

Come, follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.

Luke 5.1-11

If you wish it, I will let down the nets.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

1 While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret,
and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,
2 he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake;
the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

3 Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,
and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.
Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."
5 Simon answered,
"Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing.
Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done this,
they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.
7 So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them.
And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying,
"Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

9 For Simon Peter and all who were with him
were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;
10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee,
who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon,
"Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching people."

11 When they had brought their boats to shore,
the disciples left everything and followed Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

724(8)

Luke 4.18-19

The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Luke 10.1-9

The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the labourers are few.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

From among the disciples,
1 the Lord appointed seventy
and sent them on ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place where he himself intended to go.
2 He said to them,
"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest.

3 "Go on your way.
See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.
4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals;
and greet no one on the road.

5 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'
6 And if anyone is there who shares in peace,
your peace will rest on that person;
but if not, it will return to you.

7 "Remain in the same house,
eating and drinking whatever they provide,
for the labourer deserves to be paid.
Do not move about from house to house.

8 "Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you,
eat what is set before you;
9 cure the sick who are there, and say to them,
'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

724(9)

John 15.15b

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

Luke 22.24-30

As my Father has conferred a kingdom upon me, so do I confer a kingdom on you, my disciples.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

As they gathered with Jesus to celebrate the passover,
24 a dispute also arose among the disciples
as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.
25 But Jesus said to them,
"The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them;
and those in authority over them are called benefactors.
26 But not so with you;
rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest,
and the leader like one who serves.
27 For who is greater,
the one who is at the table or the one who serves?
Is it not the one at the table?
But I am among you as one who serves.

28 "You are those who have stood by me in my trials;
29 and I confer on you,
just as my Father has conferred on me,
a kingdom,
30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom,
and you will sit on thrones
judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

The gospel of the Lord.

724(10)

John 10.14

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

John 10.11-16

The good shepherd is ready to give up life itself for the flock.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees,
11 "I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ➢

12 The hired hand,
who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep,
sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—
and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.
13 The hired hand runs away
because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me,
15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father.
And I lay down my life for the sheep.
16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.
I must bring them also,
and they will listen to my voice.
So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

The gospel of the Lord.

724(11)

John 15.15b

I call you my friends, says the Lord,
for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me.

John 15.9-17

I have called you,
that you might go forth and produce a great harvest.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
9 "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.
10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

14 "You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15 I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 “You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

724(12) For a pope

John 10.14

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

John 21.15-17

Peter, take care of my lambs, take care of my sheep.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

After Jesus had shown himself to his disciples,
15 and they had finished breakfast,
Jesus said to Simon Peter,
“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”
Peter said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”
Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

16 A second time Jesus said to him,
“Simon son of John, do you love me?”
Peter said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”
Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

17 Jesus said to him the third time,
“Simon son of John, do you love me?”
Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time,
“Do you love me?”
And he said to Jesus,
“Lord, you know everything;
you know that I love you.”
Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

The gospel of the Lord.

COMMON OF DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

725 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) 1 Kings 3.11-14
2) Wisdom 7.7-10, 15-16
3) Sirach 15.1-6
4) Sirach 39.6-10

726 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Acts 2.14a, 22-24, 32-36
2) Acts 13.26-33

727 Responsorial Psalm

1) Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.9b or John 6.63c)
2) Psalm 37.3-4, 5-6, 30-31 (R.30a)
3) Psalm 119.9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (R.12b)

728 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) 1 Corinthians 1.18-25
2) 1 Corinthians 2.1-10a
3) 1 Corinthians 2.10b-16
4) Ephesians 3.8-12
5) Ephesians 4.1-7, 11-13
6) 2 Timothy 1.13-14; 2.1-3
7) 2 Timothy 4.1-5

729 Gospel Acclamation

1) Matthew 5.16
2) Matthew 23.9b, 10b
3) See John 6.63c, 68c
4) John 15.5
5) See Acts 16.14b
6) 1 Corinthians 1.18
7) 1 Corinthians 2.7

730 Gospel Readings

1) Matthew 5.13-19
2) Matthew 7.21-29
3) Matthew 13.47-52
4) Matthew 23. 8-12
5) Mark 4.1-10, 13-20
6) Luke 6.43-45

725 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

725(1)

1 Kings 3.11-14

I give you a wise and discerning mind.

A reading from the book of Exodus.

11 God said to Solomon,
"Because you have asked for the gift of understanding,
and have not asked for yourself long life or riches,
or for the life of your enemies,
but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,
12 I now do according to your word.

"Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind;
no one like you has been before you
and no one like you shall arise after you.
13 I give you also what you have not asked,
both riches and honour all your life;
no other king shall compare with you.

14 "If you will walk in my ways,
keeping my statutes and my commandments,
as your father David walked,
then I will lengthen your life."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 37.3-4, 5-6, 30-31 (R.30a)

R. The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***R.***

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ***R.***

30 The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.
31 The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip. ***R.***

725(2)

Wisdom 7.7-10, 15-16

I have chosen wisdom over beauty or strength.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

7 I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

8 I preferred her to sceptres and thrones,
and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her.

9 Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem,
because all gold is but a little sand in her sight,
and silver will be accounted as clay before her.

10 I loved her more than health and beauty,
and I chose to have her rather than light,
because her radiance never ceases.

15 May God grant me to speak with judgment,
and to have thoughts worthy of what I have received;
for he is the guide even of wisdom
and the corrector of the wise.

16 For both we and our words are in his hand,
as are all understanding and skill in crafts.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.9b)

R. The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb. ***R.***

725(3)

Sirach 15.1-6

Wisdom will bless with understanding those who fear the Lord.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Happy is the person who meditates on wisdom
and reasons intelligently,
who reflects on her ways and ponders her secrets.
1 All who fear the Lord will do this,
and whoever holds to the law will obtain wisdom.

2 Wisdom will come to meet them like a mother,
and like a young bride she will give welcome.
3 Wisdom will feed them with the bread of learning,
and give them the water of wisdom to drink.

4 They will lean on her and not fall,
and will rely on her and not be put to shame.
5 Wisdom will exalt them above their neighbours,
and will tell them what to say in the midst of the assembly.
6 All who find wisdom will find gladness and a crown of rejoicing,
and will inherit an everlasting name.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 119.9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (R.12b)

R. Lord, teach me your decrees.

9 How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments. ***R.***

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes. ***R.***

13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches. ***R.***

725(4)

Sirach 39.6-10

Those who study the Lord's decrees will be given the gift of understanding.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

6 If the great Lord is willing,
those who study the law of the Lord
will be filled with the spirit of understanding;
they will pour forth words of wisdom of their own
and give thanks to the Lord in prayer.
7 The Lord will direct their counsel and knowledge,
as they meditates on the Lord's mysteries.
8 They will show the wisdom of what they have learned,
and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.
9 Many will praise their understanding;
it will never be blotted out.
Their memory will not disappear,
and their name will live through all generations.
10 Nations will speak of their wisdom,
and the congregation will proclaim their praise.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 37.3-4, 5-6, 30-31 (R.30a)

R. The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***R.***

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ***R.***

30 The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.
31 The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip. ***R.***

726 FIRST READING DURING EASTER SEASON

726(1)

Acts 2.14a, 22-24, 32-36

God has made Jesus, the crucified one, both Lord and Messiah.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

14 On Pentecost day, Peter, standing with the eleven,
raised his voice and addressed them,
"People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem,
let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

22 "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say:
Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God
with deeds of power, wonders, and signs
that God did through him among you,
as you yourselves know—
23 this man, handed over to you
according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,
you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

24 "But God raised him up, having freed him from death,
because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.
32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.
33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God,
and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit,
he has poured out this that you both see and hear. ➢

34 For David did not ascend into the heavens,
but he himself says,
‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
35 until I make your enemies your footstool.”’
36 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty
that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,
this Jesus whom you crucified.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.9b)

R. The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb. ***R.***

726(2)

Acts 13.26-33

God has been faithful to his promise in raising Jesus from the dead.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Preaching at the synagogue in Antioch, Paul said:
26 “You descendants of Abraham’s family,
and others who fear God,
to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

27 “Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders
did not recognize Jesus
or understand the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath,
they fulfilled those words by condemning him.
28 Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death,
they asked Pilate to have Jesus killed.
29 When they had carried out everything that was written about him,
they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

30 “But God raised him from the dead;
31 and for many days
he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem,
and they are now his witnesses to the people.

32 “And we bring you the good news
that what God promised to our ancestors
33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus;
as also it is written in the second psalm,
‘You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.’”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 37.3-4, 5-6, 30-31 (R.30a)

R. The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***R.***

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ***R.***

30 The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.
31 The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip. ***R.***

727 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain: "Alleluia," sung two or three times, may be used in place of the proper refrain.

727(1)

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.9b or Jn 6.63c)

R. The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. ***R.***

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. ***R.***

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. ***R.***

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb. ***R.***

727(2)

Psalm 37.3-4, 5-6, 30-31 (R.30a)

R. The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart. ***R.***

5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday. ***R.***

30 The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.
31 The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip. ***R.***

727(3)

Psalm 119.9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (R.12b)

R. Lord, teach me your decrees.

9 How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments. ***R.***

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes. ***R.***

13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches. ***R.***

728 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

728(1)

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

God chose to save those who believe through the foolishness of our preaching.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19 For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise?
Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
21 For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation,
to save those who believe.
22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
23 but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ➢

24 but to those who are the called,
both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

728(2)

1 Corinthians 2.1-10a
We teach the hidden wisdom of God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you
in lofty words or wisdom.
2 For I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear
and in much trembling.
4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,
but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

6 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom,
though it is not a wisdom of this age
or of the rulers of this age,
who are doomed to perish.
7 But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden,
which God decreed before the ages for our glory.
8 None of the rulers of this age understood this;
for if they had,
they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
9 But, as it is written,
"No eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him."
10 These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

728(3)

1 Corinthians 2.10b-16

We speak with the mind of Christ.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

10 The Spirit searches everything,
even the depths of God.
11 For what human being knows what is truly human
except the human spirit that is within?
So also no one comprehends what is truly God's
except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.
13 And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom
but taught by the Spirit,
interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

14 Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit,
for they are foolishness to them,
and they are unable to understand them
because they are spiritually discerned.

15 Those who are spiritual discern all things,
and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.
16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

728(4)

Ephesians 3.8-12

My mission is to declare to all the world the infinite treasure found in Christ Jesus.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

8 Although I am the very least of all the saints,
this grace was given to me
to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
9 and to make everyone see
what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God
who created all things; ➢

10 so that through the church
the wisdom of God in its rich variety
might now be made known
to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose
that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
12 in whom we have access to God
in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

728(5)

Ephesians 4.1-7, 11-13

In ministering, we help build the body of Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

1 I, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another in love,
3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.
7 But each of us was given grace
according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11 The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists,
some pastors and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

728(6)

2 Timothy 1.13-14; 2.1-3

Entrusted as you have been with a precious gift, guard it with the help of the indwelling Spirit.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

13 Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me,
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
14 Guard the good treasure entrusted to you,
with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

1 You then, my child,
be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus;
2 and what you have heard from me through many witnesses
entrust to faithful people
who will be able to teach others as well.
3 Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

728(7)

2 Timothy 4.1-5

Preach the Good News, for that is your special work.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,
I solemnly urge you:
2 proclaim the message;
be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage,
with the utmost patience in teaching.

3 For the time is coming
when people will not put up with sound doctrine,
but having itching ears,
they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires,
4 and will turn away from listening to the truth
and wander away to myths.

5 As for you,
always be sober,
endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist,
carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

729 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of these verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

In Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

729(1) **Matthew 5.16**

Let your light shine before all,
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father.

729(2) **Matthew 23.9b, 10b**

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ!

729(3) **See John 6.63c, 68c**

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

729(5) **See Acts 16.14b**

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

729(4) **John 15.5**

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord:
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

729(6) **1 Corinthians 1.18**

The message of the cross is folly to those who turn away,
but to those who are saved it is the power of God.

729(7) **1 Corinthians 2.7**

We teach God's secret and hidden wisdom,
decreed by God for our glory before time began.

729(8)

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

730 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

730(1)

Matthew 5.16

Let your light shine before all,
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father.

Matthew 5.13-19

You are the light of the world.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,
13 “You are the salt of the earth;
but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything,
but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.

16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets;
I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.
18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away,
not one letter,
not one stroke of a letter,
will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 “Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments,
and teaches others to do the same,
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven;
but whoever does them and teaches them
will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

730(2)

See John 6.63c, 68c

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.

Matthew 7.21-29

Jesus taught the crowds with authority.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,
21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

22 "On that day many will say to me,
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,
and cast out demons in your name,
and do many deeds of power in your name?'
23 Then I will declare to them,
'I never knew you;
go away from me, you evildoers.'

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
25 The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

26 "And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them
will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.
27 The rain fell, and the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat against that house,
and it fell—and great was its fall!"

28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these things,
the crowds were astounded at his teaching,
29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

The gospel of the Lord.

730(3)

See Acts 16.14b

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Matthew 13.47-52

The master of a household brings out what is new and what is old.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowds:
47 "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea
and caught fish of every kind;
48 when it was full, they drew it ashore,
sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

49 "So it will be at the end of the age.
The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous
50 and throw the evil into the furnace of fire,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all this?"
They answered, "Yes."
52 And Jesus said to the crowds,
"Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven
is like the master of a household
who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The gospel of the Lord.

730(4)

Matthew 23.9b, 10b

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Matthew 23.8-12

Let no one call you instructor, for you have only one instructor, the Messiah.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:
8 "You are not to be called rabbi,
for you have one teacher, and you are all students.
9 And call no one your father on earth,
for you have one Father—the one in heaven.
10 Nor are you to be called instructors,
for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ➢

11 “The greatest among you will be your servant.
12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord.

730(5)

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Mark 4.1-10, 13-20

Behold, the sower goes out to sow.

The shorter version (1-9) concludes at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

1 Jesus began to teach beside the sea.
Such a very large crowd gathered around him
that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there,
while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

2 Jesus began to teach them many things in parables,
and in his teaching he said to them:
3 “Listen! A sower went out to sow.
4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,
and the birds came and ate it up.
5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil,
and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil.
6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched;
and since it had no root, it withered away.
7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it,
and it yielded no grain.

8 “Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain,
growing up and increasing
and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”
9 And Jesus said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” *

10 When Jesus was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve
asked him about the parables.
13 And Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this parable?
Then how will you understand all the parables?

14 “The sower sows the word.
15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown:
when they hear, Satan immediately comes
and takes away the word that is sown in them.

16 “And these are the ones sown on rocky ground:
when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy.
17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while;
then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word,
immediately they fall away.

18 “And others are those sown among the thorns:
these are the ones who hear the word,
19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth,
and the desire for other things come in and choke the word,
and it yields nothing.

20 “And these are the ones sown on the good soil:
they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit,
thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

The gospel of the Lord.

730(6)

John 15.5

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord:
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Luke 6.43-45

The heart’s concern is evident in one’s speech.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:
43 “No good tree bears bad fruit,
nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit;
44 for each tree is known by its own fruit.
Figs are not gathered from thorns,
nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

45 “The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good,
and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil;
for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”

The gospel of the Lord.

COMMON OF VIRGINS

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

731 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) Song 8.6-7
2) Hosea 2.14, 15b, 19-20

732 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Revelation 19.1, 5-9a
2) Revelation 21.1-5a

733 Responsorial Psalm

1) Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.12a, 13a)
2) Psalm 148.1-2, 11-13a, 13c-14 (R.10a or Mt 25.6b)

734 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) 1 Corinthians 7.25-35
2) 2 Corinthians 10.17 - 11.2

735 Gospel Acclamation

1) John 14.23

736 Gospel Reading

1) Matthew 19.3-12
2) Matthew 25.1-13
3) Luke 10.38-42

731 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

731(1)

Song 8.6-7

Love is strong, strong even as death.

A reading from the Song of Songs.

The bride speaks of her beloved:

6 Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.
Love's flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
7 Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love all the wealth of his house,
it would be utterly scorned.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 148.1-2, 11-13a, 13c-14 (R.12a, 13a)

R. Young men and women,
praise the name of the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host! ***R.***

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord. ***R.***

The Lord's glory is above earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. ***R.***

731(2)

Hosea 2.14, 15b, 19-20

I will take you for my wife in faithfulness.

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

The Lord says this concerning Israel:
14 I will now allure her,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.

15 There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

19 And I will take you for my wife forever;
I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice,
in steadfast love, and in mercy.
20 I will take you for my wife in faithfulness;
and you shall know the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (Mt 25.6b)

R. The bridegroom is here;
let us go out to meet Christ the Lord.

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

732 FIRST READING DURING EASTER SEASON

732(1)

Revelation 19.1, 5-9a

Blessed are those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
1 I, John, heard what seemed to be the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying,
"Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power to our God."
5 And from the throne came a voice saying,
"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
and all who fear him,
small and great."

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,
like the sound of many waters
and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,
"Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

7 "Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
8 to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure"—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me,
"Write this:
Blessed are those
who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."
And the angel said to me,
"These are true words of God."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 148.1-2, 11-13a, 13c-14 (R.12a, 13a)

R. Young men and women,
praise the name of the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host! ***R.***

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord. ***R.***

The Lord's glory is above earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. ***R.***

732(2)

Revelation 21.1-5a

I saw the new Jerusalem, like a bride adorned for her husband.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
1 I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them;
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (Mt 25.6b)

R. The bridegroom is here;
let us go out to meet Christ the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

733 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain: "Alleluia," sung two or three times, may be used in place of the proper refrain.

733(1)

Psalm 45.10-11, 13b-14, 15-16 (R.10a or Mt 25.6b)

R. Listen to me, daughter;
see and bend your ear.

or: The bridegroom is here;
let us go out to meet Christ the Lord.

10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him. ***R.***

13 The princess is decked in her chamber
with gold-woven robes;
14 in many-coloured robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins follow. ***R.***

15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth. ***R.***

733(2)

Psalm 148.1-2, 11-13a, 13c-14 (R.12a, 13a)

R. Young men and women,
praise the name of the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host! ***R.***

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord. ***R.***

The Lord's glory is above earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. ***R.***

734 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

734(1)

1 Corinthians 7.25-35

A virgin can devote herself to the work of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

25 Concerning virgins, I have no command of the Lord,
but I give my opinion as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

26 I think that, in view of the impending crisis,
it is well for you to remain as you are.
27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free.
Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

28 But if you marry, you do not sin,
and if a virgin marries, she does not sin.
Yet those who marry will experience distress in this life,
and I would spare you that.
29 I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short;
from now on,
let even those who have wives be as though they had none,
30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning,
and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing,
and those who buy as though they had no possessions,

31 and those who deal with the world
as though they had no dealings with it.
For the present form of this world is passing away.

32 I want you to be free from anxieties.
The unmarried man is concerned about the affairs of the Lord,
how to please the Lord;
33 but the married man is concerned about the affairs of the world,
how to please his wife,
34 and his interests are divided.
And the unmarried woman and the virgin
are concerned about the affairs of the Lord,
so that they may be holy in body and spirit;
but the married woman is concerned about the affairs of the world,
how to please her husband.

35 I say this for your own benefit,
not to put any restraint upon you,
but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

734(2)

2 Corinthians 10.17 - 11.2

I have promised you in marriage to one husband, as a chaste virgin for Christ.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
18 For it is not those who commend themselves that are approved,
but those whom the Lord commends.

1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness.
Do bear with me!

2 I feel a divine jealousy for you,
for I promised you in marriage to one husband,
to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

735 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of these verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

In Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

735(1) **John 14.23**

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

735(2)

This is the wise bridesmaid, whom the Lord found waiting;
at his coming, she went in with him to the wedding feast.

735(3)

Come, bride of Christ, and receive the crown,
which the Lord has prepared for you for ever.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

735-736 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung or recited; any of the versicles in no.. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

736(1)

Come, bride of Christ, and receive the crown,
which the Lord has prepared for you for ever.

Matthew 19.3-12

Some have chosen a single life for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

3 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, and to test him they asked,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?"

4 Jesus answered,
"Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning
'made them male and female,'
5 and said,
'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother

and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh'?
6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

7 The Pharisees said to Jesus,
"Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal
and to divorce her?"

8 Jesus said to them,
"It was because you were so hard-hearted
that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives,
but from the beginning it was not so.
9 And I say to you,
whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity,
and marries another, commits adultery."

10 His disciples said to Jesus,
"If such is the case of a man with his wife,
it is better not to marry."
11 But Jesus said to them,
"Not everyone can accept this teaching,
but only those to whom it is given.
12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth,
and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others,
and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
Let anyone accept this who can."

The gospel of the Lord.

736(2)

This is the wise bridesmaid, whom the Lord found waiting;
at his coming, she went in with him to the wedding feast.

Matthew 25.1-13

Behold, the bridegroom! Go out to greet him!

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
1 "The kingdom of heaven will be like this.
Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

3 "When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ➢

6 “But at midnight there was a shout,
‘Look! Here is the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him.’
7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
8 The foolish said to the wise,
‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
9 But the wise replied,
‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came,
and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet;
and the door was shut.
11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying,
‘Lord, lord, open to us.’
12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’”

13 Jesus told the disciples,
“Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

736(3)

John 14.23

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Luke 10.38-42

Martha offers Jesus her hospitality,
Mary offers him her attention.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

38 Jesus entered a village,
where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.
39 She had a sister named Mary,
who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying.

40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks;
so she came to Jesus and asked,
“Lord, do you not care
that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?
Tell Mary to help me.”

41 But the Lord answered her,
“Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things;
42 there is need of only one thing.
Mary has chosen the better part,
which will not be taken away from her.”

The gospel of the Lord.

COMMON OF HOLY MEN AND WOMEN

When three readings are desired, the first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. In all cases the second reading is chosen from the New Testament. When only one reading precedes the gospel, the first reading may be chosen from the Old or New Testament.

737 First Reading from the Old Testament outside the Easter Season

1) Genesis 12.1-4a	2) Leviticus 19.1-2, 17-18	3) Deuteronomy 6.3-9
4) Deuteronomy 10.8-9	5) 1 Kings 19.4-9a, 11-15a	6) 1 Kings 19.16b, 19-21
7) Tobit 8.4b-9a	8) Tobit 12.6-13	9) Judith 8.2-8
10) Esther 13.8-14, 17	11) Proverbs 31.10-13, 16-20, 26-31	12) Sirach 2.7-11
13) Sirach 3.17-24	14) Sirach 26.1-4, 13-16	15) Isaiah 58. 6-11
16) Jeremiah 20.7-9	17) Micah 6.6-8	18) Zephaniah 2.3; 3.12-13

738 First Reading within the Easter Season

1) Acts 4.32-35	2) Revelation 3.14b, 20-22	3) Revelation 19.1, 5-9a
4) Revelation 21.5-7		

739 Responsorial Psalm

1) Psalm 1.1-2, 3, 4+6 (R.2a; 40.5a; or 92.13-14)	2) Psalm 15.1a+2-3a, 3b-4ab, 5 (R.1b)	3) Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)
4) Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.1)	5) Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 (R.1a or 8a)	6) Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18a (R.1a)
7) Psalm 112.1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 (R.1a)	8) Psalm 128.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a)	9) Psalm 131.1, 2-3a

740 Second Reading or First Reading from the New Testament

1) Romans 8.26-30	2) 1 Corinthians 1.26-31	3) 1 Corinthians 12.31 - 13.13
4) 2 Corinthians 10.17 - 11.2	5) Galatians 2.19-20	6) Galatians 6.14-16
7) Ephesians 3.14-19	8) Ephesians 6.10-13, 18	9) Philippians 3.8-14
10) Philippians 4.4-9	11) Colossians 3.12-17	12) 1 Timothy 5.3-10
13) James 2.14-17	14) 1 Peter 3.1-9	15) 1 Peter 4.7b-11
16) 1 John 3.14-18	17) 1 John 4.7-16	18) 1 John 5.1-5

741 Gospel Acclamation

1) Matthew 5:3	2) Matthew 5:6	3) Matthew 5:8
4) See Matthew 11:25	5) Matthew 11:28	6) Matthew 23:11, 12b
7) Luke 21:36	8) John 8:12	9) John 8:31b-32
10) John 13:34	11) John 14:23	12) John 15:4a, 5b
13) John 15:9b, 5b		

742 Gospel Reading

1) Matthew 5.1-12a	2) Matthew 5.13-16	3) Matthew 7.21-27
4) Matthew 11.25-30	5) Matthew 13.44-46	6) Matthew 16.24-27
7) Matthew 18.1-5	8) Matthew 19.3-12	9) Matthew 19.27-29
10) Matthew 22.34-40	11) Matthew 25.1-13	12) Matthew 25.14-30
13) Matthew 25.31-46	14) Mark 3.31-35	15) Mark 9. 33-37
16) Mark 10.13-16	17) Mark 10.17-30	18) Luke 6.27-38
19) Luke 9.57-62	20) Luke 10.38-42	21) Luke 12.32-34
22) Luke 12.35-40	23) Luke 14.25-33	24) John 15.1-8
25) John 15.9-17	26) John 17.20-26	

737 FIRST READING OUTSIDE EASTER SEASON

737(1)

Genesis 12.1-4a

Depart from your homeland and kindred, and come.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

1 The Lord said to Abram,
"Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house
to the land that I will show you.

2 "I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you, and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you,
and the one who curses you I will curse;
and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

737(2)

Leviticus 19.1-2, 17-18

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:
2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them:
'You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.'

17 "'You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin;
you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself.
18 You shall not take vengeance
or bear a grudge against any of your people,
but you shall love your neighbour as yourself:
I am the Lord.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 15.1a+2-3a, 3b-4ab, 5 (R.1b)

R. The just shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord.

1 Lord, who may abide in your tent?
2 Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
3 who do not slander with their tongue. ***R.***

Those who do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;
4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honour those who fear the Lord. ***R.***

5 Those who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved. ***R.***

737(3)

Deuteronomy 6.3-9

Hear, O Israel; love the Lord your God with all your heart.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying,
3 "Hear, O Israel,
and observe the Lord's commandments diligently,
so that it may go well with you,
and so that you may multiply greatly
in a land flowing with milk and honey,
as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

4 "Hear, O Israel:
The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.

6 "Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.
7 Recite them to your children
and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.
8 Bind these words as a sign on your hand,
fix them as an emblem on your forehead,
9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever. ***R.***

7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ***R.***

9 They have distributed freely,
they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their name is exalted in honour. ***R.***

737(4) (for religious)

Deuteronomy 10.8-9

The Lord God will be your inheritance.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying,
8 "The Lord set apart the tribe of Levi
to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord,
to stand before the Lord to minister to him,
and to bless in his name, to this day.

9 "Therefore Levi has no allotment or inheritance with his kindred;
the Lord is his inheritance, as the Lord your God promised him."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

737(5) (for religious)

1 Kings 19.4-9a, 11-15a

Go out and stand on the mountain, in the sight of the Lord.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

4 Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness,
and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree.
Eliah asked that he might die:
"It is enough;
now, O Lord, take away my life,
for I am no better than my ancestors."
5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep.
Suddenly an angel touched Elijah and said to him,
"Get up and eat."
6 Elijah looked,
and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones,
and a jar of water.
He ate and drank, and lay down again.
7 The angel of the Lord came a second time,
touched him, and said,
"Get up and eat,
otherwise the journey will be too much for you."
8 Elijah got up, and ate and drank;
then he went in the strength of that food
forty days and forty nights
to Horeb the mount of God.
9 At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

11 The word of the Lord came to Elijah, telling him,
"Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord,
for the Lord is about to pass by."

Now there was a great wind,
so strong that it was splitting mountains
and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord,
but the Lord was not in the wind;
and after the wind an earthquake,
but the Lord was not in the earthquake;
12 and after the earthquake a fire,
but the Lord was not in the fire;
and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle
and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.
Then there came a voice to him that said,
"What are you doing here, Elijah?"

14 He answered,
"I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts;
for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant,
thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword.
I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

15 Then the Lord said to him,
"Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed following the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 15.1a, 2-3a, 3b-4ab, 5 (R.1b)

R. The just shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord.

1 Lord, who may abide in your tent?
2 Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
3 who do not slander with their tongue. ***R.***

Those who do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;
4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honour those who fear the Lord. ***R.***

5 Those who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved. ***R.***

737(6) (for religious)

1 Kings 19.16b, 19-21

Elisha set out, and followed Elijah, becoming his servant.

A reading from the first book of Kings.

The Lord spoke to the prophet Elijah and said,
16 "You shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah
as prophet in your place."

19 So Elijah set out from there,
and found Elisha, who was ploughing.
There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him,
and he was with the twelfth.

➢

Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him.
20 Elisah left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said,
"Let me kiss my father and my mother,
and then I will follow you."

Then Elijah said to him,
"Go back again; for what have I done to you?"

21 Elisha returned from following Elijah,
took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them;
using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh,
and gave it to the people, and they ate.
Then he set out and followed Elijah,
and became his servant.

This is the word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

737(7)

Tobit 8.4b-9a

Grant, O God, that we may grow old together.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

On their wedding night,
4 Tobias said to Sarah,
"Sister, get up,
and let us pray and implore our Lord
that he grant us mercy and safety."
5 So they began to pray and implore
that they might be kept safe.

Tobias began by saying,
"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.

6 "You made Adam,
and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.'

7 "I now am taking Sarah, not because of lust, but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together."

8 And they both said,
"Amen, Amen."
9 Then they went to sleep for the night.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1 Happy is the one who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. ***R.***

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
4 Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord. ***R.***

5 The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
6 May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel! ***R.***

737(8) (for those who work for the disadvantaged)

Tobit 12.6-13

Pray, fast, give alms.

A reading from the book of Tobit.

6 Raphael called Tobit and his son Tobias privately and said to them,
"Bless God
and acknowledge him in the presence of all the living
for the good things he has done for you.
Bless and sing praise to his name.
With fitting honour declare to all people the deeds of God.
Do not be slow to acknowledge him.
7 "It is good to conceal the secret of a king,
but to acknowledge and reveal the works of God,
and with fitting honour to acknowledge him.
Do good and evil will not overtake you.
8 Prayer with fasting is good,
but better than both is almsgiving with righteousness.

"A little with righteousness is better than wealth with wrongdoing.
It is better to give alms than to lay up gold.
9 For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin.
Those who give alms will enjoy a full life,
10 but those who commit sin and do wrong are their own worst enemies.

11 "I will now declare the whole truth to you
and will conceal nothing from you.
Already I have declared it to you when I said,
'It is good to conceal the secret of a king,
but to reveal with due honour the words of God.'

12 "So now when you and Sarah prayed,
it was I who brought and read the record of your prayer
before the glory of the Lord,
and likewise whenever you would bury the dead.
13 And that time when you did not hesitate to get up
and leave your dinner to go and bury the dead,
14 I was sent to you to test you."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18a (R.1a)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

3 For the Lord forgives all your iniquity,
and heals all your diseases.
4 The Lord redeems your life from the Pit,
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. ***R.***

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever. ***R.***

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust. ***R.***

17 The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him;
and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant. ***R.***

737(9) (for widows)

Judith 8.2-8

Judith devoutly honoured the Lord.

A reading from the book of Judith.

2 Manasseh, husband of Judith, who belonged to her tribe and family,
had died during the barley harvest.
3 For as he stood overseeing those who were binding sheaves in the field,
he was overcome by the burning heat,
and took to his bed and died in his town Bethulia.
So they buried him with his ancestors
in the field between Dothan and Balamon.

4 Judith remained as a widow for three years and four months
5 at home where she set up a tent for herself on the roof of her house.
She put sackcloth around her waist and dressed in widow's clothing.
6 She fasted all the days of her widowhood,
except the day before the sabbath and the sabbath itself,
the day before the new moon and the day of the new moon,
and the festivals and days of rejoicing of the house of Israel. ➢

7 Judith was beautiful in appearance, and was very lovely to behold.
Her husband Manasseh had left her gold and silver,
men and women slaves,
livestock, and fields;
and she maintained this estate.
8 No one spoke ill of Judith,
for she feared God with great devotion.

This is the word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 131.1, 2-3a (R. see 2)

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me. ***R.***

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
3 O Israel, hope in the Lord forevermore. ***R.***

737(10)

Esther 13.8-14, 17

I feared lest I gave to creatures the glory owed to God.

A reading from the book of Esther.

8 Mordecai prayed to the Lord,
calling to remembrance all the works of the Lord.
9 He said,
"O Lord, Lord, you rule as King over all things,
for the universe is in your power
and there is no one who can oppose you
when it is your will to save Israel,
10 for you have made heaven and earth
and every wonderful thing under heaven.

11 "You are Lord of all,
and there is no one who can resist you, the Lord.
12 You know all things;
you know, O Lord, that it was not in insolence or pride
or for any love of glory that I did this,
and refused to bow down to this proud Haman;

13 for I would have been willing to kiss the soles of his feet
to save Israel!

14 "But I did this
so that I might not set human glory above the glory of God,
and I will not bow down to anyone but you, who are my Lord;
and I will not do these things in pride.

17 "Hear my prayer, and have mercy upon your inheritance;
turn our mourning into feasting
that we may live and sing praise to your name, O Lord;
do not destroy the lips of those who praise you."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 (R.1a)

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

9 O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. ***R.***

737(11)

Proverbs 31.10-13, 16-20, 26-31

The Lord praises the woman of wise judgment.

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

10 A capable wife, who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
13 This fine woman seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
16 She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
17 She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.

19 A good wife puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
20 She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
27 She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
29 "Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
31 Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 131.1, 2-3a (R. see 2)

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me. ***R.***

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
3 O Israel, hope in the Lord forevermore. ***R.***

737(12)

Sirach 2.7-11

All who fear the Lord, trust him, hope in his word, and love him.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

7 You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy;
do not stray, or else you may fall.

8 You who fear the Lord, trust in him,
and your reward will not be lost.
9 You who fear the Lord, hope for good things,
for lasting joy and mercy.

10 Consider the generations of old and see:
has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?
Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord
and been forsaken?
Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?

11 For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;
he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever. ***R.***

7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ***R.***

9 They have distributed freely,
they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honour. ***R.***

737(13)

Sirach 3.17-24

Be humble, and God will look upon you with favour.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

17 My child, perform your tasks with humility;
then you will be loved by those whom God accepts.

18 The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself;
so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.
19 Many are lofty and renowned,
but to the humble he reveals his secrets.
20 For great is the might of the Lord;
but by the humble he is glorified.

21 Neither seek what is too difficult for you,
nor investigate what is beyond your power.
22 Reflect upon what you have been commanded,
for what is hidden is not your concern.

23 Do not meddle in matters that are beyond you,
for more than you can understand has been shown you.
24 For their conceit has led many astray,
and wrong opinion has impaired their judgment.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 131.1, 2-3a (R. see 2)

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me. ***R.***

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
3 O Israel, hope in the Lord forevermore. ***R.***

737(14)

Sirach 26.1-4, 13-16

Like the sun rising, so is the beauty of a good wife in the midst of her well-ordered home.

A reading from the book of Sirach.

1 Happy is the husband of a good wife;
the number of his days will be doubled.
2 A loyal wife brings joy to her husband,
and he will complete his years in peace.
3 A good wife is a great blessing;
she will be granted among the blessings of the man who fears the Lord.
4 Whether rich or poor, his heart is content,
and at all times his face is cheerful.
13 A wife's charm delights her husband,
and her skill puts flesh on his bones.
14 A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,
and nothing is so precious as her self-discipline.
15 A modest wife adds charm to charm,
and no scales can weigh the value of her chastity.
16 Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord,
so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1 Happy is the one who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. ***R.***

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
4 Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord. ***R.***

5 The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
6 May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel! ***R.***

737(15) (for those who work for the disadvantaged)

Isaiah 58.6-11

Let the hungry share your bread.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:
6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 112.1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever. ***R.***

7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ***R.***

9 They have distributed freely,
they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their name is exalted in honour. ***R.***

737(16)

Jeremiah 20.7-9

To speak God's word: it was like a fire burning within my bones!

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

7 O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
8 For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

9 If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

737(17)

Micah 6.6-8

The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good and what is asked of you.

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

Entering the temple of the Lord, I asked:
6 "With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

8 The Lord has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 1.1-2, 3, 4-6 (R.2a)

R. Happy are they who delight in the law of the Lord.

1 Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night. ***R.***

3 They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper. ***R.***

4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ***R.***

737(18)

Zephaniah 2.3; 3.12-13

Seek the Lord: the Lord is our shelter, our security.

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

3 Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land,
who do his commands;
seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the Lord's wrath.

12 For I will leave in the midst of you
a people humble and lowly.
They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord—
13 the remnant of Israel;
they shall do no wrong and utter no lies,
nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths.
Then they will pasture and lie down,
and no one shall make them afraid.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 (R.8a)

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

9 O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. ***R.***

738 FIRST READING WITHIN EASTER SEASON

738(1) (for religious)

Acts 4.32-35

All who believed were united in heart and soul.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

32 The whole group of those who believed
were of one heart and soul,
and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions,
but everything they owned was held in common.
33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,
and great grace was upon them all.

34 There was not a needy person among them,
for as many as owned lands or houses sold them
and brought the proceeds of what was sold.

35 They laid it at the apostles' feet,
and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

738(2)

Revelation 3.14b, 20-22

I will enter and eat with you, and you with me.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision, the angel of the Lord spoke:
Write to the churches and say,
14 "Here are the words of the Amen,
the faithful and true witness,
the origin of God's creation:
20 Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you,
and you with me.
21 To the one who conquers
I will give a place with me on my throne,
just as I myself conquered
and sat down with my Father on his throne.
22 Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4; 5, 6 (R.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

738(3)

Revelation 19.1, 5-9a

Blessed are those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
1 I, John, heard what seemed to be the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying,
"Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power to our God."
5 And from the throne came a voice saying,
"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
and all who fear him,
small and great."

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,
like the sound of many waters
and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,
"Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

7 "Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
8 to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure"—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9 And the angel said to me,
"Write this:
Blessed are those
who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."
And the angel said to me,
"These are true words of God."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18a (R.1a)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

3 For the Lord forgives all your iniquity,
and heals all your diseases.
4 The Lord redeems your life from the Pit,
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. ***R.***

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever. ***R.***

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust. ***R.***

17 The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him;
and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant. ***R.***

738(4)

Revelation 21.5-7

Those who conquer will inherit the waters of life.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

In my vision,
5 the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."
Also he said,
"Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

6 Then he said to me,
"It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water as a gift
from the spring of the water of life.
7 Those who conquer will inherit these things,
and I will be their God and they will be my children."

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 126.1-2ab, 2bc-3, 4-5, 6 (R.5)

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. ***R.***

Then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced. ***R.***

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
5 May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy. ***R.***

6 Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves. ***R.***

739 RESPONSORIAL PSALM

During the Easter Season, the refrain: "Alleluia" sung two or three times may be used in place of the proper refrain.

739(1)

Psalm 1.1-2, 3, 4+6 (R.2a; 40.5a; or 92.13-14)

R. Happy are they who delight in the law of the Lord.

or: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

or: The just will flourish like the palm tree
in the garden of the Lord.

1 Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night. ***R.***

3 They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper. ***R.***

4 The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. ***R.***

739(2)

Psalm 15.1a+2-3a, 3b-4ab, 5 (R.1b)

R. The just shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord.

1 Lord, who may abide in your tent?
2 Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;
3 who do not slander with their tongue. ***R.***

Those who do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;
4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honour those who fear the Lord. ***R.***

5 Those who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved. ***R.***

739(3)

Psalm 16.1-2a+5, 7-8, 11 (R. see 5a)

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

1 Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord."
5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot. ***R.***

7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
8 I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ***R.***

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. ***R.***

739(4)

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.1)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. ***R.***

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. ***R.***

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. ***R.***

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. ***R.***

739(5)

Psalm 34.1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 (R.1a or 8a)

R. I will bless the Lord at all times.

or: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad. ***R.***

3 O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears. ***R.***

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble. ***R.***

7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him. ***R.***

9 O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. ***R.***

739(6)

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 13-14, 17-18a (R.1a)

R. O bless the Lord, my soul!

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. ***R.***

3 For the Lord forgives all your iniquity,
and heals all your diseases.
4 The Lord redeems your life from the Pit,
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. ***R.***

8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever. ***R.***

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust. ***R.***

17 The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him;
and his righteousness to children's children,
18 to those who keep his covenant. ***R.***

739(7) Psalm 112.1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or: Alleluia. (Two or three times)

1 Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.
2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed. ***R.***

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever. ***R.***

7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. ***R.***

9 They have distributed freely,
they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their name is exalted in honour. ***R.***

739(8) Psalm 128.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a)

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1 Happy is the one who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. ***R.***

3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
4 Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord. ***R.***

5 The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
6 May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel! ***R.***

739(9)

Psalm 131.1, 2-3a (R. see 2)

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1 O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me. ***R.***

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
3 O Israel, hope in the Lord forevermore. ***R.***

740 READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

740(1)

Romans 8.26-30

Those whom God justified are also glorified.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

26 The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
27 And God, who searches the heart,
knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints
according to the will of God.

28 We know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.
29 For those whom he foreknew
he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn
among many brothers and sisters.
30 And those whom he predestined he also called;
and those whom he called he also justified;
and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(2)

1 Corinthians 1.26-31

God has chosen the lowest, the most despised.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters:
not many of you were wise by human standards,
not many were powerful,
not many were of noble birth.
27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
28 God chose what is low and despised in the world,
things that are not,
to reduce to nothing things that are,
29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

30 God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
31 in order that, as it is written,
"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

This is the word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(3)

1 Corinthians 12.31 - 13.13

Love will never end.

The shorter version begins at the asterisk.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

31 Strive for the greater gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
2 And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
3 If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 * Love is patient;
love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
5 It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.

7 It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never ends.

But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;
as for tongues, they will cease;
as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;
10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child,
I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child;
when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part;
then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.
13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(4)

2 Corinthians 10.17 - 11.2

I have promised you in marriage to one husband, as a chaste virgin for Christ.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
18 For it is not those who commend themselves that are approved,
but those whom the Lord commends.

1 I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness.
Do bear with me!
2 I feel a divine jealousy for you,
for I promised you in marriage to one husband,
to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(5)

Galatians 2.19-20

It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

My brothers and sisters,
19 through the law I died to the law,
so that I might live to God.
I have been crucified with Christ;
20 and it is no longer I who live,
but it is Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(6)

Galatians 6.14-16

Through Christ, I have been crucified to the world, and the world to me.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

14 May I never boast of anything
except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.

15 For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything;
but a new creation is everything!
16 As for those who will follow this rule—
peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(7)

Ephesians 3.14-19

I pray that you may know the love of Christ, a love beyond knowledge.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

14 I bow my knees before the Father,
15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory,
he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being
with power through his Spirit,
17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend,
with all the saints,
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(8)

Ephesians 6.10-13, 18

Clothe yourself in the whole armour of God.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

10 Be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of his power.
11 Put on the whole armour of God,
so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh,
but against the rulers,
against the authorities,
against the cosmic powers of this present darkness,
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God,
so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day,
and having done everything, to stand firm.
18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.
To that end keep alert
and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(9)

Philippians 3.8-14

I race for but one prize: God's heavenly call, in Christ Jesus.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

8 I regard everything as loss
because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things,
and I regard them as rubbish,
in order that I may gain Christ
9 and be found in him,
not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,
but one that comes through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God based on faith.

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection
and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this
or have already reached the goal;
but I press on to make it my own,
because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own;
but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
14 I press on toward the goal
for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(10)

Philippians 4.4-9

Let your minds dwell on what is holy.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
6 Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
7 And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved,
whatever is true, whatever is honourable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me,
and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(11)

Colossians 3.12-17

Love one another, the bond of perfection.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
13 Bear with one another and,
if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other;
just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;
and with gratitude in your hearts
sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(12) (for widows)

1 Timothy 5.3-10

A widow, alone, can set her hopes on God.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

3 Honour widows who are really widows.

4 If a widow has children or grandchildren,
they should first learn their religious duty to their own family
and make some repayment to their parents;
for this is pleasing in God's sight.

5 The real widow, left alone,
has set her hope on God
and continues in supplications and prayers night and day;
6 but the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.
7 Give these commands as well, so that they may be above reproach.

8 And whoever does not provide for relatives,
and especially for family members,
has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 Let a widow be put on the list if she is not less than sixty years old
and has been married only once;
10 she must be well attested for her good works,
as one who has brought up children,
shown hospitality, washed the saints' feet,
helped the afflicted,
and devoted herself to doing good in every way.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(13)

James 2.14-17

Faith, without good works, is dead.

A reading from the letter of James.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters,
if you say you have faith but do not have works?
Can faith save you?
15 If brothers or sisters are without clothing and lack daily food,
16 and one of you says to them,
"Go in peace;
keep warm and eat your fill,"
and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,
what is the good of that?
17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(14)

1 Peter 3.1-9

The saintly women hoped in God.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

1 Wives, accept the authority of your husbands,
so that, even if some of them do not obey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct,
2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

3 Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair,
and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing; ➢

4 rather, let your adornment be the inner self
with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,
which is very precious in God's sight.
5 It was in this way long ago
that the holy women who hoped in God
used to adorn themselves
by accepting the authority of their husbands.
6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord.
You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good
and never let fears alarm you.

7 Husbands, show consideration for your wives in your life together,
paying honour to the woman as the weaker sex,
since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life—
so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit,
sympathy, love for one another,
a tender heart, and a humble mind.
9 Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse;
but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.
It is for this that you were called—
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(15)

1 Peter 4.7b-11

Serve one another, using the unique gifts you have received from God.

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

7 Be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.
8 Above all, maintain constant love for one another,
for love covers a multitude of sins.
9 Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
11 Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God;
whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies,
so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.
To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(16)

1 John 3.14-18

We should surrender our lives for one another.

A reading from the first letter of John.

14 We know that we have passed from death to life
because we love one another.
Whoever does not love abides in death.
15 All who hate a brother or sister are murderers,
and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.
16 We know love by this,
that he laid down his life for us—
and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods
and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
18 Little children, let us love,
not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(17)

1 John 4.7-16

All who abide in love, abide in God, and God in them.

A reading from the first letter of John.

7 Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might live through him.
10 In this is love,
not that we loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
11 Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God;
if we love one another, God lives in us,
and his love is perfected in us.
13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us,
because he has given us of his Spirit.
➢

14 And we have seen and do testify
that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.
15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God,
and they abide in God.
16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.
God is love,
and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

740(18)

1 John 5.1-5

The victory that conquers the world is our faith.

A reading from the first letter of John.

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ
has been born of God,
and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.
2 By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and obey his commandments.
3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world.
And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.
5 Who is it that conquers the world
but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

741 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

One of these verses may accompany the singing of the Alleluia. If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

741(1)

Matthew 5.3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

741(2)

Matthew 5.6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right;
they shall be satisfied.

741(3) **Matthew 5.8**

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

741(4) **See Matthew 11.25**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

741(5) **Matthew 11.28**

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

741(6) **Matthew 23.11, 12b**

Whoever is greatest among you will serve the rest.
All who humble themselves shall be exalted.

741(7) **Luke 21.36**

Be watchful, pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man.

741(8) **John 8.12**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

741(9) **John 8.31b-32**

If you stay in my word, you will indeed be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

741(10) **John 13.34**

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

741(11) **John 14.23**

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

741(12) **John 15.4a, 5b**

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

741(13) **John 15.9b, 5b**

Remain in my love, says the Lord;
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

For convenience, the verses for the acclamation are to be found before each gospel.

742 GOSPEL and Acclamation

Within Lent, the Alleluia is not sung or recited; any of the versicles in no. 223 may be used to replace the Alleluia in the gospel acclamation.

The verse may accompany the singing of the acclamation. If the acclamation is not sung, the verse is omitted.

742(1)

Matthew 5.3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Matthew 5.1-12a

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2 Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 "Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(2)

John 8.12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Matthew 5.13-16

You are the light of the world.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,

13 "You are the salt of the earth;
but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything,
but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 "You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.

16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(3)

John 14.23

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Matthew 7.21-27

The wise build on rock, not sand.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,
21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

22 "On that day many will say to me,
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,
and cast out demons in your name,
and do many deeds of power in your name?'
23 Then I will declare to them,
'I never knew you;
go away from me, you evildoers.' ➢

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
25 The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

26 “And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them
will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.
27 The rain fell, and the floods came,
and the winds blew and beat against that house,
and it fell—and great was its fall!”

The gospel of the Lord.

742(4)

See Matthew 11.25

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Matthew 11.25-30

Father, you have not shown these things to the learned,
but you have revealed them to infants.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

25 At that time, Jesus exclaimed:
“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent
and have revealed them to infants;
26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

27 “All things have been handed over to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me,
all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

742(5)

John 15.9b, 5b

Remain in my love, says the Lord;
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

Matthew 13.44-46

Those who find treasure hidden in a field sell all to buy that field.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowds:
44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,
which someone found and hid;
the finder joyfully goes home,
sells everything and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
46 on finding one pearl of great value,
the merchant went and sold everything and bought that pearl."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(6)

Matthew 5.6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right;
they shall be satisfied.

Matthew 16.24-27

Those who lose their life for my sake will, indeed, find it.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

24 Jesus told his disciples,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
25 For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

26 "For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world
but forfeit their life?
Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels
in the glory of his Father,
and then he will repay everyone for what has been done."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(7)

Matthew 23.11, 12b

Whoever is greatest among you will serve the rest.
All who humble themselves shall be exalted.

Matthew 18.1-5

Unless you change and become like little children,
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

1 The disciples came to Jesus and asked,
"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
2 Jesus called a child, whom he put among them, and said,
3 "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
4 Whoever becomes humble like this child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
5 Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(8) (for religious)

John 8.31b-32

If you stay in my word, you will indeed be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

Matthew 19.3-12

Some have chosen a single life
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

3 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, and to test him they asked,
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?"

4 Jesus answered,
"Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning
'made them male and female,'
5 and said,
'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh'?
6 So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

7 The Pharisees said to Jesus,
"Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal
and to divorce her?"

8 Jesus said to them,
"It was because you were so hard-hearted
that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives,
but from the beginning it was not so.

9 "And I say to you,
whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity,
and marries another, commits adultery."

10 His disciples said to Jesus,
"If such is the case of a man with his wife,
it is better not to marry."
11 But Jesus said to them,
"Not everyone can accept this teaching,
but only those to whom it is given.
12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth,
and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others,
and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
Let anyone accept this who can."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(9)

Matthew 5.3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Matthew 19.27-29

You who have given up everything and followed me will receive a hundredfold in return.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person
to enter the kingdom of heaven."
27 Then Peter said in reply,
"Look, we have left everything and followed you.
What then will we have?"
28 Jesus said to them,
"Truly I tell you,
at the renewal of all things,
when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory,
you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones,
judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ➢

29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters
or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake,
will receive a hundredfold,
and will inherit eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(10)

John 13.34

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Matthew 22.34-40

You shall love the Lord your God;
and you shall love your neighbour as you love yourself.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together,
35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him.
36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

37 Jesus said to him,
"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
38 This is the greatest and first commandment.
39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'
40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(11)

Matthew 5.8

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Matthew 25.1-13

Behold, the bridegroom! Go out to greet him!

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this.
Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

6 “But at midnight there was a shout,
‘Look! Here is the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him.’
7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
8 The foolish said to the wise,
‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
9 But the wise replied,
‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came,
and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet;
and the door was shut.
11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying,
‘Lord, lord, open to us.’
12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’”

13 Jesus told the disciples,
“Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

742(12)

John 14.23

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Matthew 25.14-30

***You have proven trustworthy in a few things;
enter into the joy of your master.***

The shorter version (14-21) concludes at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus, teaching his disciples about the kingdom of heaven,
told them this parable:
14 “A man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;
15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability.
Then he went away.

16 “The one who had received the five talents went off at once
and traded with them,
and made five more talents.
17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent
went off and dug a hole in the ground
and hid his master’s money.

➢

19 “After a long time the master of those slaves came
and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward,
bringing five more talents, saying,
‘Master, you handed over to me five talents;
see, I have made five more talents.’
21 His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things,
I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.’ *

22 “And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying,
‘Master, you handed over to me two talents;
see, I have made two more talents.’
23 His master said to him,
‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things,
I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.’

24 “Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying,
‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man,
reaping where you did not sow,
and gathering where you did not scatter seed;
25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.
Here you have what is yours.’
26 But his master replied,
‘You wicked and lazy slave!
You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow,
and gather where I did not scatter?
27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers,
and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

28 “‘So take the talent from him,
and give it to the one with the ten talents.
29 For to all those who have, more will be given,
and they will have an abundance;
but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.
30 As for this worthless slave,
throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

742(13) (for those who work for the disadvantaged)

John 13.34

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Matthew 25.31-46

Whatever you do the least of mine, you do also to me.

The shorter version (31-40) concludes at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:
31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
32 All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

34 "Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
35 for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
36 I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,
or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you,
or naked and gave you clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'
40 And the king will answer them,
'Truly I tell you,
just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it to me.' *

41 "Then he will say to those at his left hand,
'You that are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire
prepared for the devil and his angels;

➢

42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 "Then they also will answer,
'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,
and did not take care of you?'
45 Then he will answer them,
'Truly I tell you,
just as you did not do it to one of the least of these,
you did not do it to me.'
46 And these will go away into eternal punishment,
but the righteous into eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(14)

John 8.31b-32

If you stay in my word, you will indeed be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

Mark 3.31-35

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

31 Jesus' mother and his brothers arrived at the house where he was;
and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.
32 A crowd was sitting around Jesus;
and they said to him,
"Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside,
asking for you."
33 And Jesus replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"
34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers!
35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(15) (for teachers)

See Matthew 11.25

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Mark 9.33-37

Whoever welcomes a child such as this, welcomes me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

33 Jesus and the disciples came to Capernaum;
and when he was in the house
Jesus asked them,

"What were you arguing about on the way?"
34 But they were silent,
for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

35 Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them,
"Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

36 Then he took a little child and put it among the disciples;
and taking it in his arms, Jesus said to them,
37 "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(16) (for teachers)

See Matthew 11.25

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Mark 10.13-16

Let the little children come to me.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

13 People were bringing little children to Jesus
in order that he might touch them;
and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to the disciples,
"Let the little children come to me;
do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.
15 Truly I tell you,
whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child
will never enter it."

16 And he took the children up in his arms,
laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The gospel of the Lord.

742(17)

Matthew 5.3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Mark 10.17-30

Sell your possessions; come, follow me.

The shorter version (17-27) concludes at the asterisk.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

17 As Jesus was setting out on a journey,
a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him,
“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18 Jesus said to him,
“Why do you call me good?
No one is good but God alone.

19 “You know the commandments:
‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery;
You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness;
You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’”

20 The man said to Jesus,
“Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”

21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,
“You lack one thing;
go, sell what you own,
and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me.”

22 When the man heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving,
for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,
“How hard it will be for those who have wealth
to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words.
But Jesus said to them again,
“Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another,
“Then who can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said,
“For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;
for God all things are possible.” *

28 Peter began to say to Jesus,
"Look, we have left everything and followed you."

29 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you,
there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or fields,
for my sake and for the sake of the good news,
30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—
houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—
and in the age to come eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(18)

John 13.34

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Luke 6.27-38

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:
27 "I say to you that listen,
love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.
29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also;
and from anyone who takes away your coat
do not withhold even your shirt.
30 Give to everyone who begs from you;
and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you.
32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?
For even sinners love those who love them.
33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?
For even sinners do the same.
34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,
what credit is that to you?
Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 "But love your enemies, do good,
and lend, expecting nothing in return. ➢

Your reward will be great,
and you will be children of the Most High;
for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

"Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
38 give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over,
will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(19) (for religious)

John 8.12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Luke 9.57-62

Wherever you go, I will follow you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

57 As Jesus and his disciples were going along the road,
someone said to Jesus,
"I will follow you wherever you go."
58 And Jesus said to him,
"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests;
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

59 To another Jesus said, "Follow me."
But this one said,
"Lord, first let me go and bury my father."
60 But Jesus said to him,
"Let the dead bury their own dead;
but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

61 Another said, "I will follow you, Lord;
but let me first say farewell to those at my home."
62 Jesus said to him,
"No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back
is fit for the kingdom of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(20)

John 14.23

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Luke 10.38-42

Martha offers Jesus her hospitality,
Mary offers him her attention.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

38 Jesus entered a village,
where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.
39 She had a sister named Mary,
who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.

40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks;
so she came to Jesus and asked,
"Lord, do you not care
that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself?
Tell Mary to help me."

41 But the Lord answered her,
"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things;
42 there is need of only one thing.
Mary has chosen the better part,
which will not be taken away from her."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(21) (for religious)

Matthew 5.3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Luke 12.32-34

It has pleased the Father to give you the kingdom.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples,
32 "Do not be afraid, little flock,
for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
33 Sell your possessions, and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out,
an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(22)

Luke 21.36

Be watchful, pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 12.35-40
Be prepared, always.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:
35 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;
36 be like those who are waiting for their master
to return from the wedding banquet,
so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.
37 Blessed are those slaves
whom the master finds alert when he comes;
truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt
and have them sit down to eat,
and he will come and serve them.

38 "If the master comes during the middle of the night,
or near dawn,
and finds them so,
blessed are those slaves.

39 "But know this:
if the owner of the house
had known at what hour the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.
40 You also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(23) (for religious)

Matthew 5.3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Luke 14.25-33
You cannot be my disciple if you do not give up your possessions.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

25 Large crowds were travelling with Jesus;
and he turned and said to them,
26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother,
spouse and children, brothers and sisters,
yes, and even life itself,
cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
cannot be my disciple.

28 "For which of you,
intending to build a tower,
does not first sit down and estimate the cost,
to see whether he has enough to complete it?
29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish,
all who see it will begin to ridicule him,
30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 "Or what king,
going out to wage war against another king,
will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand
to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?
32 If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away,
he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

33 "So therefore, none of you can become my disciple
if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord.

742(24)

John 15.9b, 5b

Remain in my love, says the Lord;
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

John 15.1-8

Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.
2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.
Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
3 You have already been cleansed
by the word that I have spoken to you.
4 Abide in me as I abide in you.
Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself
unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you unless you abide in me.
5 I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,
because apart from me you can do nothing. ➢

6 Whoever does not abide in me
is thrown away like a branch and withers;
such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7 “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask for whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.
8 My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

742(25)

John 13.34

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

John 15.9-17

You are my friends, if you do as I have told you to do.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
9 “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you;
abide in my love.
10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.
11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete.

12 “This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

14 “You are my friends if you do what I command you.
15 I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what the master is doing;
but I have called you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.

16 “You did not choose me but I chose you.
And I appointed you to go and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.
17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord.

742(26)

John 15.9b, 5b

Remain in my love, says the Lord;
those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit.

John 17.20-26

It is my desire that those you have given me, Father, may be with me where I am.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

When the hour had come for Jesus to pass from this world to his Father,
he raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, saying:
20 "I ask not only on behalf of these,
but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,
21 that they may all be one.
As you, Father, are in me and I am in you,
may they also be in us,
so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 "The glory that you have given me I have given them,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
23 I in them and you in me,
that they may become completely one,
so that the world may know that you have sent me
and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 "Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me,
may be with me where I am, to see my glory,
which you have given me because you loved me
before the foundation of the world.

25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know you,
but I know you;
and these know that you have sent me.
26 I made your name known to them,
and I will make it known,
so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them,
and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

TABLE OF THE PROPER OF SAINTS

Alphabetical Order

TABLE OF READINGS

Biblical Order

Page numbers above 929 are found in volume B.

	Page	Lect.	Year
GENESIS			
1.1-19	161	329	1
20 - 2.4a	164	330	1
26 - 2.3	667	559	
2.4b-9, 15-17	167	331	1
18-25	169	332	1
3.1-8	171	333	1
9-15, 20	608	689	
9-15, 20	719	707(1)	
9-15, 20	1905	707(1)	
9-24	173	334	1
4.1-15, 25	177	335	1
1-15, 25	930	335	1
6.5-8; 7.1-5, 10	179	336	1
5-8; 7.1-5, 10	932	336	1
8.6-13, 20-22	181	337	1
6-13, 20-22	934	337	1
9.1-13	184	338	1
1-13	937	338	1
11.1-9	186	339	1
1-9	939	339	1
12.1-4a	848	737(1)	
1-4a	2034	737(1)	
1-7	720	707(2)	
1-7	1906	707(2)	
1-9	1018	371	1
13.2, 5-18	1020	372	1
15.1-12, 17-18	1022	373	1
16.1-12, 15-16	1025	374	1
6b-12, 15-16	1026	374	1
17.1, 9-10, 15-22	1028	375	1
3-9	478	254	
18.1-15	1030	376	1
16-33	1034	377	1
19.15-29	1037	378	1
21.5, 8-20	1039	379	1
22.1-19	1042	380	1
23.1-4, 19; 24.1-8, 62-67	1045	381	1
27.1-5, 9-10, 15-29 ++	1048	382	1
28.10-22a	1051	383	1
32.22-32	1053	384	1
37.3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28	408	234	
41.55-57; 42.5-7a, 17-24	1056	385	1
44.18-21, 23b-29; 45.1-5	1058	386	1
46.1-7, 28-30	1061	387	1
49.2, 8-10	42	193	
29-31, 33; 50.15-26++	1064	388	1
EXODUS			
1.8-14, 22	1067	389	1
2.1-15a	1069	390	1
3.1-6, 9-12	1072	391	1
13-20	1074	392	1
11.10 - 12.14	1077	393	1
12.37-42	1079	394	1
14.5-18	1082	395	1
21-15.1, 20-21++	1084	396	1
16.1-5, 9-15	1087	397	1
17.1-7	415	236	
19.1-2, 9-11, 16-20b	1089	398	1
20.1-17	1092	399	1
23.20-23a	1850	650	
24.3-8	1094	400	1
32.7-14	449	247	
7-14	781	719(1)	
7-14	1967	719(1)	
15-24, 30-34	1097	401	1
33.7-11; 34.5b-9, 28	1100	402	1
34.29-35	1103	403	1

	Page	Lect.	Year
40.16-21, 34-38	1105	404	1
LEVITICUS			
19.1-2, 11-18	386	224	
1-2, 17-18	849	737(2)	
1-2, 17-18	2035	737(2)	
23.1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37	1107	405	1
25.1, 8-17	1110	406	1
NUMBERS			
11.4b-15	1113	407	1
12.1-13	1117	408	1
13.1-2, 25-33; 14.1-2b, 26-29, 34-35++	1120	409	1
20.1-13	1123	410	1
21.4-9	472	252	
4-9	1835	638	
24.2-7, 15-17a	29	187	
DEUTERONOMY			
4.1, 5-9	427	239	
32-40	1126	411	1
6.3-9	850	737(3)	
3-9	2036	737(3)	
4-13	1128	412	1
10.8-9	782	719(2)	
8-9	851	737(4)	
8-9	1968	719(2)	
8-9	2037	737(4)	
12-22	1131	413	1
26.16-19	397	229	
30.15-20	377	220	
31.1-8	1133	414	1
34.1-12	1135	415	1
JOSHUA			
3.7-10a, 11, 13-17	1138	416	1
24.1-13	1141	417	1
14-29	1144	418	1
JUDGES			
2.11-19	1147	419	1
6.11-24a	1149	420	1
9.6-15	1152	421	1
11.29-39a	1155	422	1
13.2-7, 24-25a	47	195	
RUTH			
1.1-2ab, 3-6, 14b-16, 22++	1158	423	1
2.1-3, 8-11; 4.13-17	1161	424	1
1 SAMUEL			
1.1-8	240	305	2
9-20	242	306	2
24-28	55	198	
3.1-10, 19-20	245	307	2
4.1c-11	247	308	2
8.4-7, 10-22a	250	309	2
9.1-4, 17-19; 10.1a	252	310	2
15.16-23	255	311	2
16.1, 6-13	783	719(3)	
1, 6-13	1969	719(3)	
1-13	257	312	2
17.32-33, 37, 40-51	260	313	2
18.6-9; 19.1-7	263	314	2
24.2-21	265	315	2
2 SAMUEL			
1.1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27	268	316	2
5.1-7, 10	271	317	2
6.12b-15, 17-19	273	318	2
7.1-5, 8b-11, 16	1907	707(3)	
1-5, 8-12, 16	59	200	

	Page	Lect.	Year
1-5, 8b-11, 16	721	707(3)	
1-17++	275	319	2
4-5a, 12-14a, 16	648	543	
18-19, 24-29	278	320	2
11.1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17	281	321	2
12.1-7a, 10-17	284	322	2
15.13-14, 30; 16.5-13a	287	323	2
18.9-10, 14b, 24-26a, 30 - 19.3++	290	324	2
24.2, 9-17	293	325	2
1 KINGS			
2.1-4, 10-12	296	326	2
3.4-13	300	328	2
11-14	817	725(1)	
11-14	2003	725(1)	
8.1-7, 9-13	303	329	2
22-23, 27-30	305	330	2
22-23, 27-30	697	701(1)	
22-23, 27-30	1883	701(1)	
10.1-10	308	331	2
11.4-13	310	332	2
29-32; 12.19	312	333	2
12.26-32; 13.33-34	314	334	2
17.1-6	1414	359	2
7-16	1416	360	2
18.20-39	1418	361	2
41-46	1421	362	2
19.4-9a, 11-15a	852	737(5)	
4-9a, 11-15a	2038	737(5)	
9a, 11-16	1423	363	2
16b, 19-21	853	737(6)	
16b, 19-21	1425	364	2
16b, 19-21	2039	737(6)	
21.1-16	1427	365	2
17-29	1429	366	2
2 KINGS			
2.1, 6-14	1432	367	2
4.18-21, 32-37	457	250	
5.1-15a	421	237	
11.1-4, 9-18, 20	1437	369	2
17.5-8, 13-15a, 18	1443	371	2
19.9b-11, 14-21, 31-36	1445	372	2
22.8-13; 23.1-3	1447	373	2
24.8-17	1450	374	2
25.1-12	1453	375	2
1 CHRONICLES			
15.3-4, 15-16; 16.1-2	723	707(4)	
3-4, 15-16; 16.1-2	1819	621	
3-4, 15-16; 16.1-2	1909	707(4)	
2 CHRONICLES			
5.6-8, 9b-10, 13 - 6.2	698	701(2)	
6-8, 9b-10, 13-14 - 6.2	1884	701(2)	
24.17-25	1440	370	2
18-22	752	713(1)	
18-22	1938	713(1)	
EZRA			
1.1-6	1215	449	1
4.4-5; 6.1a, 6ad-8, 12b, 14-20++	1217	450	1
9.5-9	1219	451	1
NEHEMIAH			
2.1-8	1231	457	1
8.1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12	1233	458	1
TOBIT			
1.1ad, 2a, 3, 17; 2.1-8++	219	353	1
1ad, 2a, 3, 17; 2.1-8++	972	353	1
2.9-14 - 3.1++	222	354	1
9-14 - 3.1++	975	354	1

* Indicates a longer and shorter version.

Page numbers above 929 are found in volume B.

Page numbers above 929 are found in volume B.

	Page	Lect.	Year
15.1-3, 11-32	412	235	
1-10	1302	488	1
1-10	1709	488	2
16.1-8	1304	489	1
1-8	1711	489	2
9-15	1307	490	1
9-15	1714	490	2
19-31	407	233	
17.1-6	1309	491	1
1-6	1716	491	2
7-10	1311	492	1
7-10	1718	492	2
11-19	1313	493	1
11-19	1720	493	2
20-25	1315	494	1
20-25	1723	494	2
26-37	1317	495	1
26-37	1725	495	2
18.1-8	1320	496	1
1-8	1727	496	2
9-14	435	242	
35-43	1323	497	1
35-43	1729	497	2
19.1-10	714	706(2)	
1-10	1325	498	1
1-10	1732	498	2
1-10	1900	706(2)	
11-28	1328	499	1
11-28	1735	499	2
41-44	1332	500	1
41-44	1738	500	2
45-48	1334	501	1
45-48	1740	501	2
20.27-40	1336	502	1
27-40	1742	502	2
21.1-4	1339	503	1
1-4	1744	503	2
5-11	1341	504	1
5-11	1746	504	2
12-19	1344	505	1
12-19	1748	505	2
20-28	1348	506	1
20-28	1751	506	2
29-33	1351	507	1
29-33	1754	507	2
34-36	1353	508	1
34-36	1756	508	2
22.24-30	813	724(9)	
24-30	1999	724(9)	
24.13-35	502	263	
35-48	506	264	
JOHN			
1.1-18	75	204	
19-28	78	205	
29-34	80	206	
35-42	82	207	
43-51	84	208	
45-51	1827	629	
47-51	1847	647	
2.1-11	641	531	
1-11	663	555a	
1-11	749	712(11)	
1-11	1935	712(11)	
1-12	89	210	
13-22	715	706(3)	
13-22	1872	671	
13-22	1901	706(3)	
3.1-8	514	267	
7b-15	516	268	
13-17	1837	638	
16-21	519	269	
22-30	103	220	
31-36	521	270	
4.5-10, 19-24++	716	706(4)	
5-10, 19-24++	1902	706(4)	
5-42*	416	236	
43-54	442	244	
5.1-16	445	245	

	Page	Lect.	Year
16-17, 33-36++	40	191	
16-30	447	246	
18, 31-47++	450	247	
6.1-15	523	271	
16-21	525	272	
22-29	527	273	
30-35	530	274	
35-40	532	275	
44-51	535	276	
52-59	538	277	
53, 60-69++	540	278	
7.1-2, 10, 25-30	453	248	
40-53	455	249	
8.1-11	470	251	A,B
12-20	471	251	C
21-30	473	252	
31-42	476	253	
51-59	479	254	
9.1-41*	437	243	
10.1-10	544	279	B,C
11-16	813	724(10)	
11-16	1999	724(10)	
11-18	545	279	A
22-30	547	280	
22-30	717	706(5)	
22-30	1903	706(5)	
31-42	482	255	
11.1-45 *	458	250	
17-27	2100	742(28)	
45-57	484	256	
12.1-11	487	257	
23-26	1869	668	
24-26	642	533a	
24-26	777	718(5)	
24-26	1818	618	
24-26	1963	718(5)	
44-50	549	281	
13.16-20	552	282	
21-33, 36-38	490	258	
14.1-6	554	283	
6-14	672	561	
7-14	556	284	
21-26	559	285	
27-31a	561	286	
15.1-8	563	287	
1-8	907	742(24)	
1-8	2097	742(24)	
9-11	566	288	
9-17	624	511a	
9-17	678	564	
9-17	814	724(11)	
9-17	908	742(25)	
9-17	1765	564	
9-17	2000	724(11)	
9-17	2098	742(25)	
12-17	568	289	
12-17	2101	742(29)	
18-21	570	290	
18-21	646	536	
18-21	778	718(6)	
18-21	1964	718(6)	
26 - **16.**4a	572	291	
16.5-11	574	292	
12-15	577	293	
16-20	579	294	
20-23a	581	295	
23b-28	583	296	
29-33	585	297	
17.1-11a	587	298	
11b-19	590	299	
11b-19	779	718(7)	
11b-19	1965	718(7)	
20-26	593	300	
20-26	909	742(26)	
20-26	2099	742(26)	
19.25-27	750	712(12)	
25-27	1839	639	
25-27	1936	712(12)	

	Page	Lect.	Year
20.1, 11-18	1804	603	
2-8	67	697	
2-8	615	697	
11-18	500	262	
24-29	1800	593	
21.1-14	509	265	
15-17	815	724(12)	
15-17	2001	724(12)	
15-19	595	301	
15-19	1793	590	
20-25	598	302	
ACTS			
1.12-14	732	708(1)	
12-14	1918	708(1)	
12-14; **2.**1-4	662	555a	
15-17, 20-26	676	564	
15-17, 20-26	1763	564	
2.14, 22-33	496	261	
14a, 22-24, 32-36	821	726(1)	
14a, 22-24, 32-36	2007	726(1)	
36-41	498	262	
3.1-10	501	263	
1-10	1791	590	
11-26	504	264	
4.1-12	507	265	
8-12	679	566	
8-12	1766	566	
13-21	510	266	
23-31	513	267	
32-35	868	738(1)	
32-35	2057	738(1)	
32-37	515	268	
5.17-26	517	269	
27-33	519	270	
34-42	521	271	
6.1-7	524	272	
8-10; **7.**54-59	64	696	
8-10; **7.**54-59	612	696	
8-15	526	273	
7.44-50	703	702(1)	
44-50	1889	702(1)	
51 - **8.**1a	528	274	
55-60	760	714(1)	
55-60	1946	714(1)	
8.1b-8	531	275	
26-40	533	276	
9.1-20	536	277	
1-22	630	519	
31-42	538	278	
11.1-18	542	279	
19-26	546	280	
21b-26; **13.**1-3	692	580	
21b-26; **13.**1-3	1780	580	
12.1-11	1794	591	
24 - **13.**5a	548	281	
13.13-25	550	282	
22-26	1788	587	
26-33	552	283	
26-33	822	726(2)	
26-33	2008	726(2)	
44-52	554	284	
46-49	791	720(1)	
46-49	1977	720(1)	
14.5-18	557	285	
19-28	559	286	
15.1-6	562	287	
7-21	564	288	
22-31	566	289	
16.1-10	568	290	
11-15	571	291	
22-34	572	292	
17.15, 22 - **18.**1	575	293	
18.1-8	577	294	
9-18	579	295	
23-28	582	296	
19.1-8	584	297	
20.17-18a, 28-32, 36	792	720(2)	
17-18a, 28-32, 36	1978	720(2)	

Reading	Page	Lect.	Year
9-13	1168	427	1
3.7-13	1170	428	1
4.1-8	1172	429	1
9-11	1174	430	1
13-18	1177	431	1
5.1-6, 9-11	1180	432	1
2 THESSALONIANS			
1.1-5, 11b-12	1575	425	2
2.1-3a, 14-17	1577	426	2
3.6-10, 16-18	1579	427	2
1 TIMOTHY			
1.1-2, 12-14	1198	441	1
15-17	1200	442	1
2.1-7++	1202	443	1
3.1-13	1204	444	1
14-16	1206	445	1
4.12-16	1208	446	1
5.3-10	884	740(12)	
3-10	2072	740(12)	
6.2c-12	1210	447	1
13-16	1212	448	1
2 TIMOTHY			
1.1-3, 6-12	1405	355	2
1-3, 6-12	361	355	2
1-8	632	520	
13-14; **2.**1-3	804	722(11)	
13-14; **2.**1-3	829	728(6)	
13-14; **2.**1-3	1990	722(11)	
13-14; **2.**1-3	2015	728(6)	
2.8-13; **3.**10-12	770	716(5)	
8-13; **3.**10-12	1956	716(5)	
8-15	363	356	2
8-15	1407	356	2
22b-26	1790	589	
3.10-17	365	357	2
10-17	1409	357	2
14-17	1848	648	
4.1-5	804	722(12)	
1-5	829	728(7)	
1-5	1990	722(12)	
1-5	2015	728(7)	
1-8	367	358	2
1-8	1411	358	2
6-8, 17-18	1796	591	
9-17a	1859	661	
TITUS			
1.1-5	633	520	
1-9	1715	491	2
2.1-8, 11-14	1717	492	2
3.1-7	1719	493	2
PHILEMON			
7-20	1721	494	2
HEBREWS			
1.1-6	106	305	1
2.5-12	108	306	1
10-11, 13b-18++	636	524	
14-18	110	307	1
3.7-14	112	308	1
4.1-5, 11	114	309	1
12-16	116	310	1
5.1-10	119	311	1
7-9	1837	639	
6.10-20	121	312	1
7.1-3, 15-17	123	313	1
25 - **8.**6	125	314	1
8.6-13	127	315	1
9.2-3, 11-14	129	316	1
15, 24-28	132	317	1
10.1-10	134	318	1
4-10	653	545	
11-18	136	319	1
19-25	139	320	1
32-36	771	716(6)	
32-36	1957	716(6)	
32-39	141	321	1
11.1-2, 8-13a	2078	740(20)	
1-2, 8-19	143	322	1

Reading	Page	Lect.	Year
1-7	188	340	1
1-7	941	340	1
32-40	146	323	1
12.1-4	149	324	1
4-7, 11-15	152	325	1
18-19, 21-24	154	326	1
18-19, 22-24	710	704(3)	
18-19, 22-24	1896	704(3)	
13.1-8	156	327	1
15-17, 20-21	159	328	1
JAMES			
1.1-11	317	335	2
1-11	1360	335	2
2-4, 12	771	716(7)	
2-4, 12	1957	716(7)	
12-18	319	336	2
12-18	1362	336	2
19-27	321	337	2
19-27	1364	337	2
2.1-9	323	338	2
1-9	1366	338	2
14-17	885	740(13)	
14-17	2073	740(13)	
14-18	1855	657a	
14-24, 26	325	339	2
14-24, 26	1368	339	2
3.1-10	327	340	2
1-10	1370	340	2
13-18	330	341	2
13-18	1373	341	2
4.1-10	332	342	2
1-10	1375	342	2
13-17	335	343	2
13-17	1378	343	2
5.1-6	336	344	2
1-6	1379	344	2
9-12	339	345	2
9-12	1382	345	2
13-20	341	346	2
13-20	1384	346	2
1 PETER			
1.3, 8-13++	1785	586	
3-9	343	347	2
3-9	1386	647	2
10-16	345	348	2
10-16	1388	348	2
18-25	347	349	2
18-25	1390	349	2
2.2-5, 9-12	350	350	2
2-5, 9-12	1393	350	2
4-9	711	704(4)	
4-9	1897	704(4)	
3.1-9	885	740(14)	
1-9	2074	740(14)	
14-17	772	716(8)	
14-17	1958	716(8)	
4.7-13	352	351	2
7-13	1395	351	2
7b-11	886	740(15)	
7b-11	2075	740(15)	
12-19	772	716(9)	
12-19	1958	716(9)	
5.1-4	643	535	
1-4	805	722(13)	
1-4	1991	722(13)	
5b-14	659	555	
2 PETER			
1.1-7	357	353	2
1-7	1400	353	2
16-19	1813	614	
3.12-15a, 17-18	359	354	2
12-15a, 17-18	1402	354	2
1 JOHN			
1.1-4	66	697	
1-4	614	697	
5 - **2.**2	68	698	
5 - **2.**2	616	698	

Reading	Page	Lect.	Year
5 - **2.**2	665	557	
2.3-11	70	202	
12-17	72	203	
18-21	74	204	
18-25	625	512	
22-28	77	205	
29; **3.**1-6	79	206	
3.1-3	1865	667	
7-10	81	207	
11-21	83	208	
14-18	887	740(16)	
14-18	2075	740(16)	
22 - **4.**6	91	212	
4.7-10	93	213	
7-16	887	740(17)	
7-16	2076	740(17)	
11-18	95	214	
19 - **5.**4	97	215	
5.1-5	773	716(10)	
1-5	888	740(18)	
1-5	1959	716(10)	
1-5	2077	740(18)	
5-13	85	209	
5-13	100	216	
14-21	88	210	
14-21	102	218	
2 JOHN			
4-9	1723	495	2
3 JOHN			
5-8	1726	496	2
JUDE			
17-25++	355	352	2
17-25++	1398	352	2
REVELATION			
1.1-4; **2.**1-5a	1728	497	2
2.1-6, 14-22	1730	498	2
8-11	645	536	
3.14b, 20-22	869	738(2)	
14b, 20-22	2058	738(2)	
4.1-11	1733	499	2
5.1-10	1736	500	2
7.2-4, 9-14	1864	667	
9-17	761	714(2)	
9-17	1842	662	
9-17	1947	714(2)	
10.8-11	1739	501	2
11.4-12	1740	502	2
19a; **12.**1, 3-6a, 10ab	733	708(2)	
19a; **12.**1, 1-6, 10ab	1821	622	
19a; **12.**1, 3-6a, 10ab	1919	708(2)	
12.7-12a	1845	647	
10-12a	763	714(3)	
10-12a	1949	714(3)	
14.1-3, 4b-5	1743	503	2
14-19	1744	504	2
15.1-4	1747	505	2
18.1-2, 21-23; **19.**1-3, 9a	1749	506	2
19.1, 5-9a	839	732(1)	
1, 5-9a	870	738(3)	
1, 5-9a	2025	732(1)	
1, 5-9a	2059	738(3)	
20.1-4, 11-15; **21.**1-2	1752	507	2
21.1-5a	704	702(2)	
1-5a	734	708(3)	
1-5a	840	732(2)	
1-5a	1890	702(2)	
1-5a	1920	708(3)	
1-5a	2026	732(2)	
5-7	764	714(4)	
5-7	872	738(4)	
5-7	1950	714(4)	
5-7	2060	738(4)	
9b-14	705	702(3)	
9b-14	1826	629	
9b-14	1891	702(3)	
22.1-7	1754	508	2

TABLE OF RESPONSORIAL PSALMS AND CANTICLES

Page numbers above 929 are found in volume B

Page numbers above 929 are found in volume B.

Page numbers above 929 are found in volume B.